

## Tory and Labour attack Bill

# Points to win passports in Hong Kong

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE rebels and the Labour Party last night launched a vigorous attack on the nationality scheme for Hong Kong after the Prime Minister spoke of Britain's "sole duty" to the colony in the run-up to the Chinese takeover in 1997.

A complicated points system will be introduced to decide who should be granted the 50,000 British passports to be issued to key Hong Kong residents.

Details of the scheme were announced after the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill was given a formal Commons first reading.

Passports will be allocated on the recommendation of the Governor of Hong Kong through four separate sections: general, disciplined services, sensitive services and key entrepreneurs.

More than 36,000 places will be awarded under the general section, which covers businessmen and managers, accountants, engineers, information service workers, doctors and scientists, lawyers, and educational staff.

The "disciplined services" section will cover some 7,000 prison staff, members of the armed forces, police, customs and immigration workers.

More than 6,000 places will be available for those in "sensitive services", such as senior civil servants and those concerned with the defence of the United Kingdom, and politically active people.

The fourth section, offering

500 places, will be for people—mainly chosen by the Governor—who have provided large-scale investment and employment in the colony and whose departure would undermine confidence.

People in the general and disciplined services sections will earn their passports according to a points system governed by age, experience, education, proficiency in English and British links. The main beneficiaries will be those in the 30 to 40 age group.

Plans to bring in a special scheme under which selected company staff would have been given preferential treatment have been dropped.

The Government faces one of its biggest revolts over the Bill, which has been the subject of prolonged Cabinet argument. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said "it is clear that the migration which has been going on from Hong Kong has been deeply unsettling and this measure is needed now."

Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative chairman, is leading the backbench revolt. Last night he was holding his fire until the second reading, but his allies were outspoken in their attacks. Mr Jim Jamman, MP for Thurrock, said it was a complete nonsense that would anger the Chinese government and undermine the agreement with Britain.

Mr Tebbit's supporters have claimed that up to 80 Tory MPs would not support the Bill, although the Government whips believe the true figure to be much lower.

Labour will vote against the second reading of the Bill, although up to 20 Labour MPs could refuse to go into the same lobby as Mr Tebbit.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, described the Bill as a "wicked piece of legislation". To allow 50,000 heads of household and their dependents into Britain before the many applicants now awaiting entry would be "a denial of basic justice".

He said: "This Bill grants citizenship solely on the basis of wealth, power and influence." It gave privileged protection from existing immigration rules to those qualifying for a passport.

"This Bill is worse than we had expected. The Shadow Cabinet decided unanimously that we should oppose the Bill on second reading and insist

that the committee stage be taken on the floor of the House." The Government remains confident of getting a second reading for the Bill on April 19, the day after MPs return from the Easter recess.

The vote on taking the whole Bill on the floor of the Commons—which would jam parliamentary business until July—could be tight, but ministers accept that the greatest risk to the legislation could be on the guillotine that it will have to introduce to prevent it being talked into the ground.

Mrs Thatcher said in London yesterday that she earnestly hoped the Bill would get through Parliament. Britain had a duty to people employed in Hong Kong and to those essential to maintaining its prosperity.

"That is our undertaking, to keep the prosperity going, under the agreement I see it as matter of solemn duty. Others may not see it like that."

Mr Tony Marlow, the right-wing MP for Northampton North, said: "Many people are wondering why the Prime Minister has given precedence to a commitment connected with her by the elite of Hong Kong over a commitment freely given to the British people at three successive general elections."

"Does she have a death wish? Certainly at the present rate of progress, the political water won't bear her weight much longer."

The details of the Bill were greeted with dismay in Hong Kong, although the Honourable Hong Kong Campaign representing the territory's main businesses said it should be just enough to provide a basis on which to restore confidence.

Mr Donald Tsang, the Director of Administration in the colony, said the package was a disappointment, but he believed it would help to stem the brain-drain which last year leached 45,000 people from the territory.

Hong Kong legislators said Britain had a moral responsibility to provide a safe and secure future for the entire population of the colony, including a responsibility to restore full British citizenship to all Hong Kong British subjects. However they conceded a limited scheme was better than nothing.

Who will qualify, page 2  
Cofin Holmes, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## United Germany 'will reject nuclear arms'

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

A REUNIFIED Germany would consider making a declaration renouncing any right to have nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

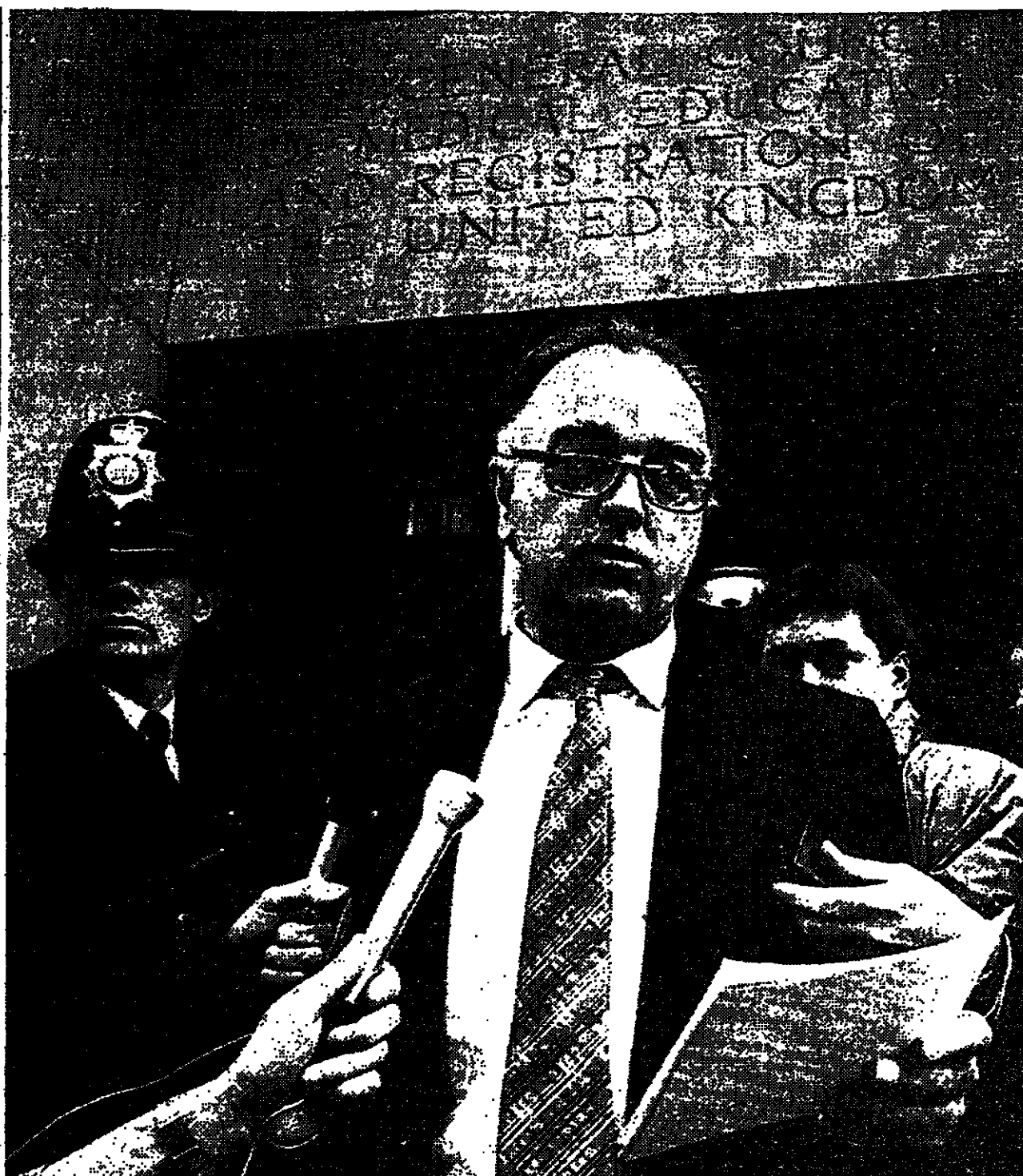
Herr Genscher's suggestion, disclosed after a meeting with President Bush at the White House, was aimed at calming Soviet fears over a reunited Germany becoming a member of the Nato alliance.

West Germany has no nuclear weapons of its own, but operates a battery of 26 short-range Lance nuclear

missile launchers, owned and controlled by the US. The only chemical weapons in West Germany are old American stocks, now in the process of being destroyed.

Herr Genscher told reporters that he was conscious of Soviet security concerns. It was therefore important, he said, for a binding declaration by a united Germany, "in which we will make it clear that neither today nor in the future will we have nuclear, biological or chemical weapons."

Genscher offer, page 11



Dr Raymond Crockett after the hearing: "My concern was for my patients. I did the right thing before God"

## Labour gains 5 new life peers

By Sheila Guna Political Reporter

TWO former European Commissioners, Mr Stanley Clinton Davis and Mr Ivor Richard QC, have been created life peers to strengthen the Labour benches in the Lords.

They are among 14 working peers, including five women, approved by the Queen yesterday. They have been picked because of their expertise with most of them earmarked for front-bench posts.

A senior Government source said that Mrs Thatcher was keen to strengthen the role of women in society. At present only 65 out of 1,177 peers (5.5 per cent) are women.

It is the first working peers list for more than three years, although Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Paddy Ashdown have campaigned strongly for the creation of more life peers because of losses on their benches in the upper House through death and ill health.

The Opposition peers were said, however, to be "gloating with anger" last night that the Prime Minister had insisted on eight new Conservative peers while giving Labour only five and the Liberal Democrats one. Although she cannot choose the Opposition parties' new peers, she decides the numbers.

Labour had a net loss over the past eight years of 16 peers with many others in their eighties and nineties. The present standing of the parties in the Lords is 423 Conservatives; Labour 108; 53 Liberal Democrats; 19 SDP; and 289 independent peers.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, said yesterday: "The Opposition warmly welcome the five new peers."

Full list, page 24

## Kidney doctor defiant after being struck off

By John Young and David Sapsted

DR Raymond Crockett, the Harley Street specialist involved in the sale of kidneys, was yesterday ordered to be struck off the medical register for serious professional misconduct.

The General Medical Council said he had brought disgrace upon himself and dishonour upon his profession in his conduct towards four Turkish donors who were paid for their kidneys.

The two surgeons involved in the operations, Mr Michael Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce, were also found guilty of serious professional misconduct, but are to be allowed to continue to practise under restrictions.

Mr Bewick will be allowed to work only within the health service for the next three years and will have to submit records of all transplants he carries out. Mr Joyce is banned from taking part in transplants for two years.

Sir Robert Kilpatrick, chairman of the GMC professional conduct committee, said Dr

Crockett's management of the cases of Mr Ferhat Usta, Mr Ahmet Koc, Mrs Hatice Anutkan and Mr Coskun Yencil fell culpably short of the standard of care they were entitled to expect.

But Dr Crockett, who has 28 days to appeal, later said he did not accept the verdict. "To be made a scapegoat for the inadequacies of others is hardly justice," he said. "I did the right thing before God."

"My concern was with four of my patients who were going to die without an urgent transplant. Four willing Turkish donors were presented to me, and were fully assessed as fit and willing to give one of their kidneys," he said.

"As a result three of my patients did not die, and are fit and well today living a full and happy life. All the four donors are fit and well without significant complications."

"Some would allow a patient to die before they would accept an unrelated donor. My conscience does not allow such a view. If these

actions in saving the lives of my patients represent misconduct, then the moon really is made of cheese."

Delivering the committee's judgement, Sir Robert told Mr Bewick: "It is your personal and professional tragedy that your conduct has brought into disrepute the practice of renal transplant surgery in the United Kingdom which you had done much to encourage."

Mr Joyce had been wrong to assume he could devolve his professional responsibilities to Mr Bewick. His failure to provide any pre- or post-operative care for the donors led him culpably to disregard those responsibilities.

Continued on page 24, col 2

High stakes, page 6  
Leading article, page 15

## Belgians to vote on reinstating Baudouin

From Peter Gaillard, Brussels



THE Belgian Parliament will today try to wrest the country from the gravest constitutional crisis it has suffered for 40 years by using an old law enabling the King to return to office.

King Baudouin stood down from the throne on Monday after refusing to sign a new law legalizing abortion.

Parliament will vote on a motion allowing him to resume the throne without forcing him "to act against his conscience".

Full report, page 9  
Leading article, page 15

## NEDC fears over industry

British industry could be returning to the days when it was renowned for bad quality and delivery, a meeting of the National Economic Development Council was told.

It was discussing a paper on the deterioration in trade performance, presented by Mr Walter Eltis, director general. The paper said that after the collapse of Britain's trade surplus on banking, insurance, shipping and travel, improved in manufactured goods trade was crucial.

## 'Nuclear' Egypt

There are strong indications that, along with a number of other Islamic states, Egypt is close to achieving nuclear capability and the CIA is investigating an Argentine-Egyptian nuclear co-operation project.

Page 12

## Singer dies



Sarah Vaughan, the American jazz singer who was once described by Ella Fitzgerald as the most talented singer in the world today, has died at her home in California, aged 66.

Obituary, page 16

## Law results

The Law Society's Final Examination, Winter 1990 results will be published in *The Times* tomorrow. Copies will be on sale this evening at 10.00 at Victoria, Charing Cross and Kings Cross stations and at Leicester Square.

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## Hopes rise of end to prison siege

By Ronald Faux and Ruth Gledhill

THERE was hope last night that the siege of Strangeways prison in Manchester was moving into its final stage as more inmates abandoned their protest.

Earlier the prison's governor described the "explosion of evil" that led to the unprecedented violence and destruction, the death of a remand prisoner and injury to 50 other prisoners and 19 prison officers.

Last night, after negotiators persuaded about 25 prisoners to surrender, the number of those determined still to defy the prison authorities had dwindled to fewer than 20, according to some reports. The Home Office, however, put the figure at "fewer than 40", adding "I am not aware of any injuries among those who came out today."

With some inmates remaining on the prison roof, Mr Brendan O'Friel, the governor, speaking for the first time since the riots erupted four days ago, said: "We are dealing with something the size and magnitude of which is unequalled."

Mr Tony Gibbings, aged 19, and Mr Alain Mekloufi, aged 27, both of Oldham, who were held in Strangeways at the weekend, appeared before Oldham magistrates on motoring charges yesterday.

Their lawyers said they had both witnessed horrific scenes. Mr Gibbings, who limped into court with arm and leg injuries, had seen three bodies hanging from internal balconies. Mr Robert Vining, his solicitor, said, adding that his client had been attacked by four men who burst into his cell.

"He has seen sights he never wants to see again. He saw at least three bodies hanging, one of which was a 17-year-old boy. He never wants to see the inside of a prison again."

In an adjoining court Mr Mekloufi was said to have been locked in his cell as smoke billowed under the door. He was desperately crying for help and was released only when someone beat the door down.

Mr Michael Cheetham, his solicitor, said: "What he saw was an horrific and terrifying experience. He is now a juddering wreck." Mr Cheetham added.

Mr Gibbings was further remanded in custody. Mr Mekloufi was put on probation.

Governor's statement, page 5  
Abusing the abusers, page 14

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## THE QUALIFIERS

# Hong Kong told of citizenship by points

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

ABOUT 20,000 key Hong Kong businessmen will qualify for British passports under the Government's nationality scheme for the colony, outlined yesterday.

The Government's suggested plan to give citizenship to 50,000 heads of household identifies four separate sections who will benefit.

By far the largest is the general allocation scheme under which 36,200 people, or about 70 per cent of the total, from a wide range of walks of life who are felt to have an important role in maintaining the prosperity and successful administration of Hong Kong would obtain passports.

They would come from seven broad categories — business and management, accounting, engineering, information services, medicine and science, law and education. The disciplined service

section would provide 7,000 places for people working in the Hong Kong Prisons Department, Customs and Excise, fire services, air force, immigration department, the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, uniformed members of the garrison and the operations department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The sensitive service section would give up to 6,300 places to people who, in the course of serving Hong Kong or United Kingdom interests in a civilian or military role, have been "exposed to special considerations and special factors during the course of their duties." These will include senior police officers, senior civil servants, journalists, and others considered to be in "vulnerable" positions.

The "key entrepreneurs section" would provide up to 500 places for "well-known and respected entrepreneurs" with an

established reputation for large-scale investment and employment in the territory, whose departure would do much to undermine confidence. Candidates for the general and disciplined service sections will be determined by a points system in which age, experience and educational qualifications will be key factors.

The maximum points available would be age (200), experience (150), education and training (150), special circumstances (150), proficiency in English (50), British links (50) and community service (50), a total of 800 points.

Under the age qualification maximum points would be given to those in the 30-40 age group, that which is most likely to emigrate. Points will decrease below the age of 30, and after 40, and people aged 51 or more would lose points up to a maximum of 200 lost points for those aged 60 and above. The experi-

ence factor would allow 10 points to be given for each year of relevant working experience up to a maximum of 15 years.

For businessmen the points would also take account of earnings as a measure of success and value to Hong Kong.

Under the education factor up to 50 points would be given for qualifications obtained during general education, a further 50 for basic vocational and professional qualifications and 50 more for post-vocational training.

Up to 50 points could be scored for British links on the basis of connections with the United Kingdom, including residence, education, substantial investments, close relatives settled here, for service with British firms or for civilian or military service with the Government or Hong Kong organizations.

Points would be available under the community service factor for

membership of a permanent statutory or non-statutory board or committee or an auxiliary service established by the Hong Kong Government.

In selecting people to be recommended for citizenship the Governor of Hong Kong will have the assistance of a steering group, chaired by the Chief Secretary of the Hong Kong Government, including independent representatives of the community.

Selection is to take place in two tranches, although the big majority, some 87 per cent, will take place in the first. The remainder is reserved for allocation nearer to 1997 to cater for those who would by then have moved into key positions, and to give people who had failed in the first round a second chance.

Under the key entrepreneurs section the Governor would invite those whom he considered might be qualified to submit an applica-

tion. It would be open to others who wished to be considered under this scheme to indicate their interest on an application form submitted under the general scheme.

The general allocation scheme will cover the following seven categories: Business and management (managers and administrators; business professionals; business and administration associate professionals) 342,800 (61 per cent).

Accounting 12,500 (5 per cent).

Engineering (engineers and related professionals; architects; planners and surveyors; engineer associate professionals [air traffic controllers]) 57,300 (10 per cent).

Information services (information science professionals [computer programmers, new editors and journalists]) 10,300 (6 per cent).

Medicine and science (medical doctors; physical and life science

professionals [chemists and physicists; nurses and midwives; other medical professionals [dentists and pharmacists]; health associate professionals [physiotherapists and radiographers]) 44,700 (8 per cent).

Law (legal professionals, legal associate professionals) 3,700 (1 per cent).

Education (teaching professionals [post-secondary, for example university and polytechnic]; educational administrators; secondary school principals, etc.; other teaching personnel [secondary and primary]) 82,700 (9 per cent).

The Government emphasized that the outline published yesterday was an explanation of the scheme it had in mind, and not the final scheme that will be submitted by the Governor of Hong Kong.

Colin Holmes, page 19  
Leading article, page 15

## LONDON REACTION

## China Town greets Bill with weary resignation

By Libby Jukes

HONG KONG Chinese in Britain last night greeted the publication of the Nationalities Bill with pragmatic resignation.

It was the same reaction with which they greeted the Sino-British Joint Declaration six years ago, outlining the colony's political structure after 1997.

There are about 200,000 ethnic Chinese in Britain, the majority of them from Hong Kong, and concentrated in London and the South-east.

The Nationalities Bill was "better than nothing" said the Rev Gilbert Lee, who came to London from Hong Kong two years ago as chaplain to the 100-strong Chinese congregation at St Martin's in the Fields, the parish church of China Town.

"I want to remain neutral, and I recognize that in these situations there is a difference between what the Government should do and what it could do," he said. His congregation was by no means united on the question of granting the right of abode in Britain to Hong Kong citizens.

"There is a section of the Chinese community here that is worried by the prospect of further immigration, and the competition it will create," Mr Lee said. "These people have been here perhaps 30 years and worked hard to set up their restaurant or laundrette, and are naturally conservative."

"But there are also those who want to bring over other members of their family to help in the business, not to mention the students and young professionals who want

passports because of what they could face when they return to Hong Kong. It is very complicated."

Mr Gideon Yung, aged 35, is a postgraduate research student at Christ Church College, Oxford. He went to the House of Commons yesterday just as he has done on several occasions when his native Hong Kong has been the subject of debate, since he came to Britain five years ago.

He also expressed resignation, but described it as an infuriating symptom of the overwhelming and inescapable weakness of the Hong Kong Chinese.

"I do not like to hear that we have been 'sold down the river', because it sounds so passive, when we are very angry at being betrayed," he said.

"There is nothing we can do about it. The British Government made it clear to us that we could have the Joint Declaration or nothing, and of course that document is better than nothing. We are in the same situation again; we have to take what they have arranged."

Mr Yung is the spokesman for Hong Kong Link, a London-based lobby group for the democratization of Hong Kong, and a leader of the campaign for passports to be given to all its citizens.

He said that none of the 150 members of his extended family living in the colony wanted to leave, although he reiterated the familiar paradox that they would "fight to the death" for the right to do so.

"Ten years ago, Hong Kong was a parking lot, where you



Food for thought: A diner ponders the future during a lunch break in China Town

stopped briefly while you got rich, before moving on. Now I think the Hong Kong Chinese are becoming more nationalistic, developing their own sense of identity. "They do not like

being a colony, but they would obviously rather be British than Chinese."

"When we see Hong Kong described regularly in the *People's Daily* newspaper as a

base for subversive activities, it is no wonder we feel threatened. We would not feel threatened if we had somewhere to go. It is as simple as that."

## THE MACAO CONNECTION

## Maude to seek help over boat people disparity

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

MR FRANCIS Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to visit Macao, on the Chinese coast near Hong Kong, on Saturday to look into a huge disparity in the extent to which the two territories are affected by the boat people crisis.

The Portuguese-administered enclave's one small camp holds 360 boat people compared with the 55,200 in detention centres and refugee camps in Hong Kong.

The anomaly is causing resentment in Hong Kong because of a suspicion that the Macao authorities encourage arriving boat people to continue their journey to the British colony.

The British Government is not strongly critical of the

Macao authorities because it accepts that most boat people would carry on without encouragement. Most Vietnamese boats arriving in Macao do so by mistake, through bad navigation.

It would, however, like the support of the Macao authorities and Portugal in its policy of sending boat people back to Vietnam. Mr Maude is likely to raise this in talks with the governor, Senhor Carlos Melancia.

Lisbon, unlike London and Hong Kong, continues to treat all boat people as refugees, whether or not they meet the United Nations definition by having a "well-founded fear of persecution".

Britain and Hong Kong ended this policy in 1988

when the influx reached unacceptable levels. The two governments are keen to see others follow their distinction between refugees and economic migrants.

Macao is as much a part of "first asylum" as Hong Kong — in theory. The principle was established by a Geneva conference in 1979 in which Britain and Portugal took part. It established that people fleeing Vietnam had a right to stay temporarily at ports in the region where they landed, pending resettlement in third countries. The willingness of other countries to accept them, however, declined as the numbers increased.

Macao is due to revert to Chinese administration in 1999, two years after Hong Kong. This may result in a large exodus of Macao Chinese to Portugal, from where they would have a right to move to other European Community countries.

Almost a quarter of the population of 400,000 are entitled to Portuguese passports. As with Hong Kong, much of the population consists of children of people who entered the territory illegally from China.

A near riot broke out there last week after the Portuguese authorities announced an amnesty for the parents of illegal immigrants who had managed to obtain residents' permits. The authorities offered 4,200 extra permits, but about 40,000 people tried to force their way into a greyhound stadium where applications were being handled.

More than 100 people were injured in the stampede and police fired warning shots and arrested more than 1,000 people. Portuguese sources said calm had since been restored.

Mr Maude's visit to Macao will be a side excursion during a six-day trip to Hong Kong.

## HONG KONG REACTION

## Passport package provokes outrage

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

IN spite of the importance of the Basic Law document agreed in Peking yesterday, most local attention in Hong Kong was focused on the British nationality package, due to be announced in Parliament at midnight Hong Kong time.

Mr Norman Tebbit's claim that the passport package would undermine confidence in Hong Kong and encourage more people to leave aroused fury among leaders of the campaign for the right of abode in Britain.

They have always claimed that a British passport would give them the security to remain in Hong Kong.

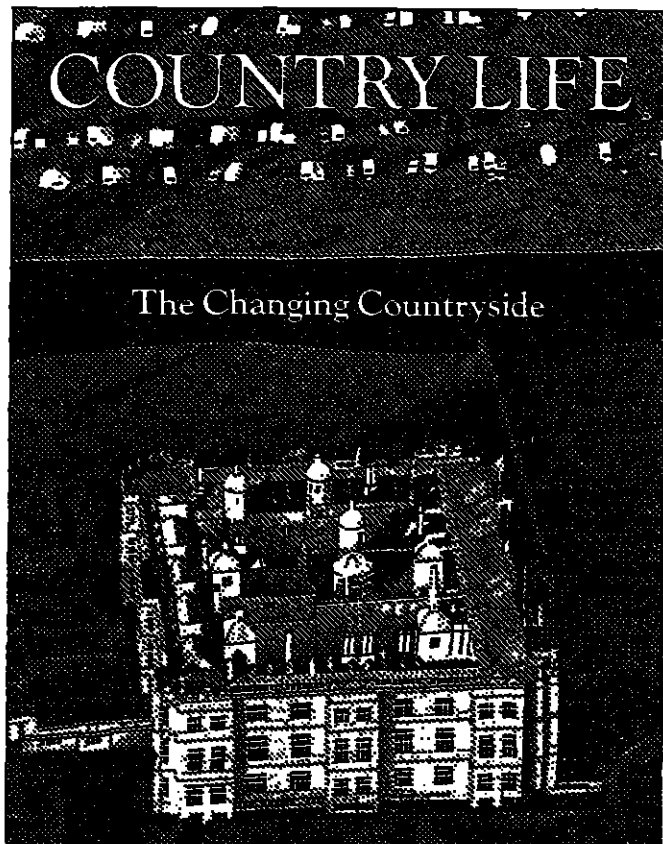
Another Legislative Councillor, Mr Hui Yin-fat, said China must bear the respon-

sibility for driving people abroad to seek passports and become second-class citizens. He said his regular attacks on Hong Kong since last summer had done nothing to restore confidence in the territory's future.

Local police were particularly angry that the nationality package seemed unlikely to make allowances for a large number of policemen, who regard themselves as loyal servants of the Crown.

Civil servants, too, were upset that the Government appeared to be abandoning plans to give a third of the 225,000 passports on offer to government officers and their families and give the majority to businessmen and professionals instead.

## Changing Countryside Number



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## Charities face code on linking grants to policy

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

THE £2 billion taxpayers spend annually on voluntary bodies, including thousands of charities, should be more closely linked to the achievement of government policies, ministers said yesterday.

The proposal, which sparked immediate concern yesterday among some leading charities, is one of seven principles which ministers may use in future when deciding on funding applications from more than 10,000 voluntary bodies at present receiving Whitehall grants.

Taxpayer support for the voluntary sector has always broadly reflected government policy but until now ministers have not felt the need to codify the assumption. They are also seeking far better monitoring of the way in which grants are spent and scrupulous adherence to the rules barring party political campaigning by government-supported groups.

The proposed criteria were announced by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, after the publication yesterday of an efficiency scrutiny of Whitehall funding of schemes, ranging from large-scale government job training programmes to citizens' advice bureaux.

To the satisfaction of voluntary bodies, the report's main criticisms were centred on those paying grants, not on the recipients.

Departments, the report said, were successfully using voluntary bodies to deliver large-scale programmes like employment training and the Youth Training Scheme, but were less good at supporting smaller organizations and projects. Officials were not clear enough what the funds

were meant to achieve and tended to respond to ideas in an ad hoc way, rather than seeing the extent to which proposals fitted in with "key policy objectives".

The report, the biggest efficiency investigation ever conducted by Whitehall, also voiced concern that officials responsible for indefinite grants — about 63 per cent of the total — were sometimes unconvinced that the money was being spent on policy priorities.

"Departments were reluctant to question the relevance of the work of bodies which had received grant for a long time because of the political sensitivities of ending a grant", it said.

In one of its few main criticisms of the sector, described as the "third force" in British society, the report urged voluntary groups to do more to discover whether they met "customers' needs".

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations welcomed the report as a vindication of the criticisms the sector had made for many years

about the Government's supervision of funding.

It said, however, that attempts to make funding reflect government policy more closely could undermine the independence of the voluntary sector, its "great strength".

"There is a danger the sector could become a simple extension of government policy. This could undermine its ability to take up issues which it is not handling, but urgently need addressing," Miss Usha Prashar, the council's director, said.

Organizations "sub-contracted" to deliver government services had clearly to reflect departmental policy. Other voluntary groups, however, provided important public services where they acted as the "conscience of the Government".

Miss Prashar also said she would be seeking urgent clarification from ministers on their suggestion that beneficiary bodies should uphold "accepted ethical standards" such as support for family life. She suggested this criterion might endanger the funding of groups working, for example, with "one-parent families or Aids sufferers."

Mr John Patten, Home Office Minister of State and chairman of the inter-ministerial group on voluntary bodies, said it was a "reasonable assumption" that funding should reflect policy aims. He indicated the principle would be adopted with tact and some flexibility by officials.

He also gave an assurance that any new guidelines would not lead to a cut in overall taxpayer support for the sector. There would be "no trimming of budgets".



Mr Waddington: Efficiency proposals

## Clarke agrees to monitoring of NHS standards

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE Government agreed in principle last night to setting up a body to monitor clinical standards in the health service after the introduction of the reforms next year.

The move was seen as a significant concession from Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, who has argued that there was no need for a national inspectorate to oversee standards.

He has maintained that quality standards should be set at local level in contracts drawn up between health authorities and hospitals.

After a two-hour meeting with representatives of the Royal Medical and Nursing Colleges, however, Mr Clarke appeared to give in to their demands for a national organization to monitor the care of all NHS patients whether they were in self-governing hospitals, directly managed or private hospitals.

Further discussions will be held on the terms of reference of the new body and how it will operate.

The colleges' leaders agreed last night that the move was a significant step forward, although it did not address their main concerns — about the speed in which the health service reforms are to be introduced.

Miss Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said the RCM had consistently advocated an independent inspectorate to guarantee standards of care.

"Today's proposal from the Health Secretary is a significant move in our direction," she said. She said, however,

that Mr Clarke still needed to provide assurances that the body would be a credible organization with the necessary teeth. "Our concerns are about the detail and how it is resourced."

The new body is expected to be made up of representatives from the royal medical and nursing colleges under a lay chairman appointed by the Secretary of State.

Its role could be similar to the Health Advisory Service, which now advises the Government on standards of care for the elderly and the mentally ill in both the health and social services.

The concession, however, is unlikely to appease the 25 organizations, including the royal colleges which last week called for a three-week pilot study on the reforms in two regional health authorities.

Miss Hancock said that these concerns had been put forward yesterday afternoon to Mr Clarke but said that he had made little response.

Earlier Mr Clarke announced that he had asked the General Medical Council and private sector representatives to look at ways of developing medical audit in the independent health care sector.

The move which ties in with last night's concession comes in the wake of concerns about standards in private hospitals which were highlighted during the cases recently investigated by the General Medical Council on the sale of human organs.

Mr Clarke said that the Human Organ Transplants Act should stamp out these practices.



# Fugitive guilty of handling cash from biggest raid

By Michael Horswell

FREDERICK Foreman, who was expelled as an "unwanted alien" from his self-imposed exile in Spain last year, was convicted yesterday of handling £363,000 of the proceeds of Britain's biggest cash raid.

He was cleared, however, of taking part in the £6 million robbery at the Security Express headquarters in Shore-ditch, east London, seven years ago this week.

Foreman, who was said to have boasted about the robbery to Spanish police, was also convicted of making an untrue statement to procure a passport in the name of George Walters. He will be sentenced at the Central Criminal Court today.

Mr Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, had said that Foreman — believing himself safe from the 1983 treaty between Britain and Spain which precludes retrospective extradition — had confessed his part in the raid to two Spanish police officers. But Mr John Mathew, QC, for

the defence, accused the Spanish officers of fabricating the confession under pressure from British police wishing to get Foreman out of Spain.

The prosecution case had also relied on the sudden "rags to riches" improvement in Foreman's finances since the robbery.

Foreman had less than £75 in the bank before the raid and was granted a rent reduction on the council flat he shared with his wife Maureen at Starkeigh Way, Southwark, south London.

In the months that followed, Foreman banked more than £363,000, most of which was transferred to Spain.

During the raid, a gang of masked men poured petrol over Mr James Alcock, a Security Express employee, and forced him to hand over keys to a strongroom, before escaping with £5,961,097 — which weighed five tons.

Foreman's life history as a sometime boxer, publican and member of the Kray gang reads like an impressive entry from a Who's Who of the post-war underworld.

In 1948, he and 10 other miscreants were ordered to be taken to the cells at the Central Criminal Court so they could experience the feel of life behind bars.

Then aged 16, Foreman and his accomplices had been bound over for wrecking a Methodist youth club armed in revenge for being called "spivs" and "yobos" when they gate-crashed a wedding party there a week earlier.

Sir Gerald Dodson, the Recorder, told the 11 youths that the experience should serve as a lifelong lesson and added: "When you come out look up to the sky and be thankful you can see it."

Foreman ignored the warning and embarked on a career of villainy, notably as a bullying enforcer for the Krays.

In 1969, he was jailed for 10 years for helping the twins dispose of the body of Jack "The Hat" McVitie.

In the same year, he and Reginald Kray were acquitted of murdering Frank "Mad Axeman" Mitchell, who had escaped from Dartmoor Prison in 1966. Foreman was

released from prison in 1975 and was quickly re-arrested, only to be cleared of murdering Thomas "Ginger" Marks.

After the Security Express robbery, he fastened to the so-called "Costa del Crime" in Spain, a familiar figure in silk suit and mandatory sunglasses, where he bought a portfolio of luxury apartments in the Alcazaba district of Marbella.

He was unceremoniously ejected from his Spanish haven last year largely because he loved to boast of his criminal exploits.

When questioned by Spanish detectives about other matters, he bragged that the robbery had been a "clean job" in the sense that nobody had been hurt.

Foreman felt confident he would be able to continue his sunshine and sangria lifestyle because Britain's extradition treaty with Spain was not retrospective. The Spanish decided nevertheless to eject him as an undesirable alien and upon his arrival at Heathrow airport he was arrested by jubilant British detectives.

His share of the proceeds was carefully deposited in a number of foreign bank accounts, some specially opened for the purpose.

An underworld tip led to the arrest of a number of men suspected of involvement in the Security Express robbery, including John and James Knight.

Foreman frequently visited the Costa del Sol villa owned by their brother Ronnie Knight, whom Foreman is said to have implicated in the robbery.

In June 1985, John Knight and Terence Perkins were both jailed for 22 years after being found guilty of robbery. John Horsley was sentenced to 12 years for robbery; James Knight to eight years for handling the stolen cash, and William Hickson six years for handling.

The following year, Scotland Yard issued warrants for the arrest of others they believed to be involved. Foreman was on the list, which also included Ronnie Knight, who has so far resisted expulsion from Spain.



A Spartacus bronze, by the sculptor Tom Merrifield and valued at £65,000, inspires imitation after being lowered by crane into position outside the Studio, at Hampstead, north London, where it will remain until sold

# Reporter faces jail as Lords reject appeal over source

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A JOURNALIST faces the threat of a jail sentence for contempt of court after the House of Lords yesterday unanimously rejected his appeal against a judge's order to hand over notes identifying his source of leaked confidential information.

In a ruling which may be challenged before the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, five law lords upheld a High Court order requiring Mr William Goodwin to surrender notes of a telephone conversation in which he was told details of a company's plan for raising additional capital.

The information is thought to have come from a stolen document. The company wants disclosure of the source so it can identify the thief.

Mr Goodwin, aged 23, a trainee reporter on the *Engineer* magazine, appeared shaken by the Lords' ruling for which he was also ordered to pay costs. He has not yet decided whether to comply with the court order. "I am going to go away over the weekend, read through the Lords' judgement and consider my situation."

It is likely that Company X, which cannot be named because of a court order, and which has throughout emphasized the need for urgency, will return to the High Court for the order — made in November by Mr Justice Hoffmann — to be enforced and ask for Mr Goodwin to be jailed or fined for contempt.

In his lead judgement yesterday, Lord Bridge of Harwich said no journalist had a right of "conscientious objection" entitling him to set

himself above the law. That doctrine "directly undermines the rule of law and is wholly unacceptable in a democratic society."

It was for the courts to decide in any given case whether the statutory protection given to journalists against disclosure of sources should prevail.

Mr Geoffrey Bindman, for Mr Goodwin, last night criticized the decision as "thoroughly unsatisfactory" and one which made it impossible "for a journalist or anyone contemplating giving information to the press to know if the courts are going to order that their identity be disclosed."

The ruling was a "major deterrent" to those with important information to give to the press. An appeal to the European Commission on Human Rights was being considered.

Parliament had "quite plainly, in section 10 of the 1981 Contempt of Court Act, stated that journalists' sources were to be protected, except in very unusual circumstances which are spelled out," Mr Bindman said.

One of those was described as the interests of justice. "The Lords have interpreted that so widely that virtually any conceivable situation in which anybody would want to seek disclosure of a source can be covered by that exception."

Morgan Grampp, publishers of the magazine, said the decision could have "serious repercussions for business journalism and, indeed, for all journalism in Britain."

Law Report, page 33

# The Duke avoids grislier details

By Robin Young

THE Duke of Edinburgh visited the Central Criminal Court yesterday, bringing to the attention of quality newspapers a case which had been deemed fit only for the tabloids.

It is the tradition that distinguished visitors sit in briefly on proceedings in Court One, the theatre in which many of the most famous murder trials have been played out.

Court One, with its skylit roof, commodious public gallery and capacious dock, is in every sense a showpiece of British justice. Two long leather benches at the back are permanently reserved for guests of the City corporation.

Before the case, the Duke had lunch in the judges' dining room with his 14th-century snuffboxes on the tables.

At 2pm Mr Justice Rouskill took his place on the bench, beneath the ornate City sword. Mr Stephen Batten, QC, rose to address the jury, opening his case for the defence, and almost immediately had to stop as 21 members of the public filed into the gallery above and behind him.

No sooner had Mr Batten started again than the Duke slipped in to the back bench beneath the gallery.

Mr Batten said that the murder case had been presented in the tabloid newspapers as being about "four in a bed sex romps".

"It is not," he said, adding that "if they are looking for much excitement this afternoon they are going to be disappointed."

The Duke looked about alertly, listened with his fingers to his cheek, and then started exercising his face muscles distractedly.

He leaned forward and listened intently while the witness described why he felt the defendant's depression was such as to diminish his responsibility for his crime, but after 43 minutes as the questioning neared the fatal attack the Duke nodded to his escorts and left.

He heard no account of the alleged murder, let alone any sex romps, but you do not have to sit through the grisly details to get an impression of how the courts work.

# Ballet star bankrupt over love of birds

The love of wild and endangered birds of Miss Lynn Seymour, the ballet dancer, has cost her dearly. The Canadian-born dancer, who has gone bankrupt with debts of £156,279 after the crash of her Timbury Wild Fowl business.

Miss Seymour operated the business from a manor house she bought in 1984, a year after marrying for the fourth time. She gave her new husband the gift of a half interest in the house, but the couple separated in 1986.

In a report to Miss Seymour's creditors it is revealed that in 1981 she was earning about £20,000 a year dancing for various ballet companies. But later her earnings decreased, as she was no longer dancing the full repertoire.

In 1987 she and a man set up a partnership to run Timbury Wild Fowl and another business called Artists In Action. The idea was to breed wild and endangered birds and sell them to collectors.

Banks provided the capital for the venture. There were heavy losses, estimated in the report at £100,000, however, and trading ceased in November 1988. The report also reveals that in 1988 Miss

Seymour, aged 50, borrowed £240,000 from a bank to settle her divorce proceedings.

Miss Seymour has blamed the collapse of Artists In Action to being unable to compete in a very competitive area and the failure of Timbury Wild Fowl to buy breeding birds.

Mr Michael Roberts, vicar of All Saints Church in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, has annoyed bird lovers by ordering more than 100 pigeons, whose droppings have corroded masonry and disrupted funerals and weddings, to be killed.

**Panama tries to resolve row**

Panama City — Panama is trying to ease tensions with Mexico following President Endara's remarks on the Mexican political system.

On Saturday, Mr Endara accused the Mexican Government of holding power through fraudulent elections. Mexico issued a protest note on Monday. However, diplomatic ties are unlikely to be severed by the dispute. (Reader)

# Bacteria warning on salads

By Nicholas Watt

SUPERMARKETS are still selling food with unacceptably high levels of bacteria including poisonous organisms such as *listeria*, *Which?* magazine says today.

The magazine's findings, which have met with a strong response from the food industry, found *listeria* in two coleslaw salads and the harmful *E. coli* in two other salads. Out of 40 ready-to-eat salads tested many were contaminated with bacteria at 10 times the accepted levels of 100,000 per gramme and only six passed.

*Which?* advises pregnant women, the very young and elderly people to avoid these products.

No *listeria* was found in 108 cook-chill meals bought from four high street food stores. *E. coli*, however, was found in two Marks & Spencer goulash dishes and one packet of Tesco enchiladas at levels that would not be harmful but which highlight poor hygiene in the production process, the magazine says.

Mr Barry Hyman, of Marks & Spencer, said he was disappointed the tests found bacteria in their goulash dishes but added that the company had the highest standards of microbiological testing in the country.

The British Retailers' Association, which represents 90 per cent of retailers, said: "We condemn this scaremongering." *Which?* was being "naïve in the extreme" to compare bacteria levels in salads, which naturally contain more, with the limits on cook-chill food.

# Defendants acquitted to keep community peace

By Craig Seton

THREE men accused of threatening to kill a policeman were acquitted at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday after the prosecution accepted the verdicts would help restore peace in an inner-city area.

The court was told there was good evidence against the three defendants, all of Asian origin, who denied threatening to kill Police Constable Tariq Somra last year, when there had been "high tension" and factional rivalry in the Handsworth area of Birmingham.

Mr Peter Arnold, for the prosecution, told the court that PC Somra had helped

bring peace to the community. It was alleged that the three men, all from Handsworth, had threatened to kill him and burn down his house when he was off duty in a local Indian restaurant.

Mr Arnold said yesterday: "PC Somra is held in very high esteem on all sides and is very important for the continuing peace in the community. At the time there had been an outbreak of serious rivalry between two sections in the community. Since April 1989 there has been a significant improvement in the behaviour of people involved in these incidents and peace

brought to the streets." Referring to the three defendants, Mr Arnold said: "That is not to say there is not good evidence against them but in this particular case the balance has come down in favour of peace in the community and faith in community policing."

Judge Ian Black, QC, directed that verdicts of not guilty should be returned against the three men. He said: "It is obvious that within your community there has been much tension. It is equally obvious that the restoration of peace in the community is of paramount importance. With that in view, the prosecution has sensibly been willing to accept these pleas."

He directed that two of the defendants, Jasbir Singh Dhillon, aged 23, and Salinder Singh Kandhola, aged 26, should be found not guilty on charges of threatening to destroy property and violent disorder. They were bound over to keep the peace for 12 months.

The judge also instructed that the third defendant, Raj Kumar, aged 25, should be found not guilty on a charge of threatening to destroy property. The prosecution accepted his plea of guilty to a charge of using threatening words and behaviour. He was conditionally discharged for 12 months.

West Midlands police said the decision had been reached after consultations between all the parties.

A spokesman said that binding over defendants was a form of preventive justice that had been used since Norman times.

# Smoking is still on decline says survey

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE number of people who smoke is continuing to fall but those who persist are smoking more, according to figures published yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Statistics for 1988 show that 33 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women over 16 smoke cigarettes compared with 35 per cent of men and 31 per cent of women in 1986.

The survey found, however, that the average male smoker consumed 120 cigarettes a week and the average female 99 in 1988, compared with 115 and 97 respectively in 1986.

Smoking decreased in nearly all age groups except women aged 35 to 49 where it

increased from 34 to 35 per cent. The survey showed that despite a 4 per cent fall since 1986, 37 per cent of men and women aged 20-24 smoke. The lowest proportion of smokers is found in the 60 and over age group where only 23 per cent smoke.

The latest figures show a similar association with previous years between smoking and socio-economic groups. Prevalence was higher for those in manual rather than non-manual occupations.

Between 1986 and 1988 there was also evidence of smokers turning to lower tar brands.

OPCS Monitor, Cigarette smoking 1972 to 1988 (HMSO £1.50).

# Jobs plan for Belfast unveiled

A GOVERNMENT scheme to regenerate the areas of west and north Belfast worst hit by the troubles over the past 20 years was announced yesterday (Edward Gorman writes).

Mr Richard Needham, Minister for the Economy at Stormont, said the Springvale Project, would involve redeveloping 130 acres of land and would, he hoped, attract up to 190 companies and create many jobs.

# Crash inquiry

Mr Neville McCorkhill, driver of a train in a level-crossing crash near Ballymena, Co Antrim, that left three people dead, may face a manslaughter charge, a Department of Transport public inquiry was told yesterday. It was adjourned after his lawyer said that it could prejudice a trial.

# Race offence

The Court of Appeal ruled yesterday that the London Borough of Lambeth broke the 1976 Race Relations Act when it advertised in November 1987 and February 1988 for two coloured people to fill senior management posts in its housing benefits department.

# Royal messages

A new set of royal cards featuring Windsor Castle, Caernarfon Castle, Holyrood House and Killybegs Castle were unveiled yesterday. The Queen will use them to congratulate subjects who reach the age of 100 or celebrate a diamond wedding anniversary.

# £500,000 claim

A couple yesterday claimed more than £500,000 at Teeside Crown Court from South Tees area health authority after their daughter, Suzanne Thompson, aged nine, was left with the faculties of a baby when an operation for a bowel obstruction in 1981 went wrong.

# Schools chess qualifiers

ZONAL winners have been decided in the British schools chess championship sponsored by *The Times* (Raymond Keene writes). The following qualify for semi-finals and finals in London. St. Columba, Derry; Dundee High; Royal Grammar, Newcastle; Turton High, Bolton; Manchester Grammar; Hymers College, Hull; Altrincham Grammar; Queen Mary's, Walsall; King Edward VI, Birmingham; Nottingham High; Spalding Grammar; Bedford Modern; Ipswich School; Abingdon School; Bishop Hedley, Merthyr Tydfil; Sir Thomas Riches, Gloucester; Truro School; Portsmouth Grammar; Tudd School, Tisbury; St. Paul's School, London; Sutton Manor; Royal Grammar, Guildford; Royal Grammar, High Wycombe; Haberdashers' Essex; Langdon Park, London.

# Village TV channel steals the show

By Lin Jenkins

A THRILLING drama of post office robbery written and acted by local school children is topping the television ratings in a Lancashire village.

The individualistic approach of Mrs Barbara Harrison, a butcher's wife, to the culinary arts, with the aid of half a bottle of sherry, has the residents of Waddington glued to their sets.

For an experiment being conducted into the village's viewing habits is showing surprising results. Most of the 3,500 residents would rather gaze at the amateurish antics of their own family, friends and neighbours than anything the professionals care to offer.

With 47 homes in the village linked to 30 satellite and cable channels and all homes tuned to Britain's newest channel Waddington Village TV it is the latter which is stealing the show. As the theme music strikes up at 7pm for the hour-long show, 97 per cent of the homes tune in. Granada TV, the perpetu-

tor of the experiment to find who watches what when all channels are available, has inadvertently waned the viewers from their previous favourite soap opera, *Granada's Coronation Street*.

Waddington has not seen such excitement since the powers that be moved the village from Yorkshire into rival Lancashire.

While the output is universally popular, be it the children's drama where the post office is raided by robbers who are eventually apprehended in the vicarage, being a fly on the wall at the parish council meeting or watching local people indulging in such gripping hobbies as rock-climbing and horse-riding, there are, however, bitter disputes behind the scenes.

Previously there was never a voice raised at WI meetings or the parish council, but the local TV station has, according to the organizers, "opened a can of worms". There are arguments about

everything from artistic control and programme content to advertising and budgeting.

The steering committee — including Mr Eric Edmondson, parish council chairman and owner of the two elderly petrol pumps, the vicar, the Rev Alan Bailey, and the junior school headmaster, Mr Peter Camliffe — feels confident, however, that the station will survive to run the full term until April 21.

It is run with the help of students from Salford College of Technology and Lancashire Polytechnic and has raised £905 in advertising revenue. Locals are drafted in to help wherever possible. Miss Debbie Winkley, a youth club leader, has become a celebrity since presenting the show and her fellow presenter, Mr Jonathan Brown, a computer salesman, has become a pin-up with the Brownies who pester him for his autograph.

Waddington TV has, meanwhile, provided a springboard for some potential TV inter-

viewers. The 13-year-olds who conducted a series of interviews certainly put their subjects on the spot. One asked Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary and local MP, if he wanted to be Prime Minister. When he replied "no", she retorted: "Why not?" Another put to the vicar the opening question: "What has God done for Waddington?"

The experiment is the largest undertaken in Britain. It is being closely monitored by the Home Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Cable Authority and the IBA, and the results will be analysed by Manchester University's European Institute for the Media.

Whatever the results, it will be impossible to deny that what the people really want is their own community station. So far, the Government has not considered such an option, but the precocious children of Waddington will no doubt be pressing their case.

# Cat-sized horse unearthed

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

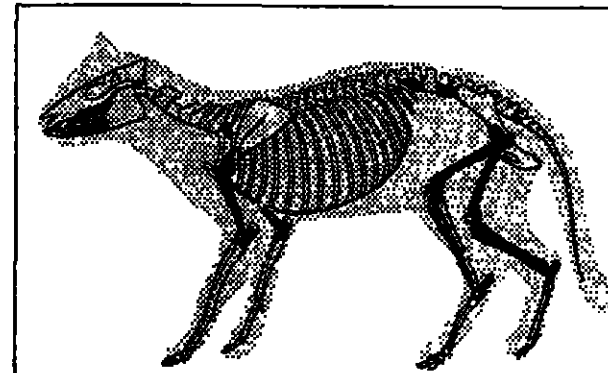
A NEW species of horse no bigger than a Siamese cat has been discovered by palaeontologists. The remains, which are more than 50 million years old, could be of the oldest ancestor yet found of today's horse.

The remains were unearthed by a group led by Professor Philip Gingerich of Michigan University at Clark's Fork Basin in the US state of Wyoming.

If the group's claims are correct, they may provide researchers with valuable clues into an era of evolution still largely unknown. Dr Jerry Hooker, a curator in the fossil mammal section of the Natural History Museum in London, said:

Excellent specimens of primitive horses, including one from Suffolk, have been found across North America and Europe since the last century.

Nevertheless confusion remains over where the horse originated, because when horses first emerged on Earth, Europe and North America



Black indicates the recovered bone fragments of *Hyracotherium sandrae*. The tint represents the outline of a Siamese cat to scale.

were linked by a land bridge through Greenland over which species could migrate, Dr Hooker said.

The jaw, teeth and limb bones of the new species have been found in a 250,000-year-old band of sediment from the very earliest part of the Eocene, a period known as the "dawn of recent times".

It is believed that the species, which has been named *Hyracotherium sandrae*, swiftly died out and was replaced by another species similar in size to a small dog.

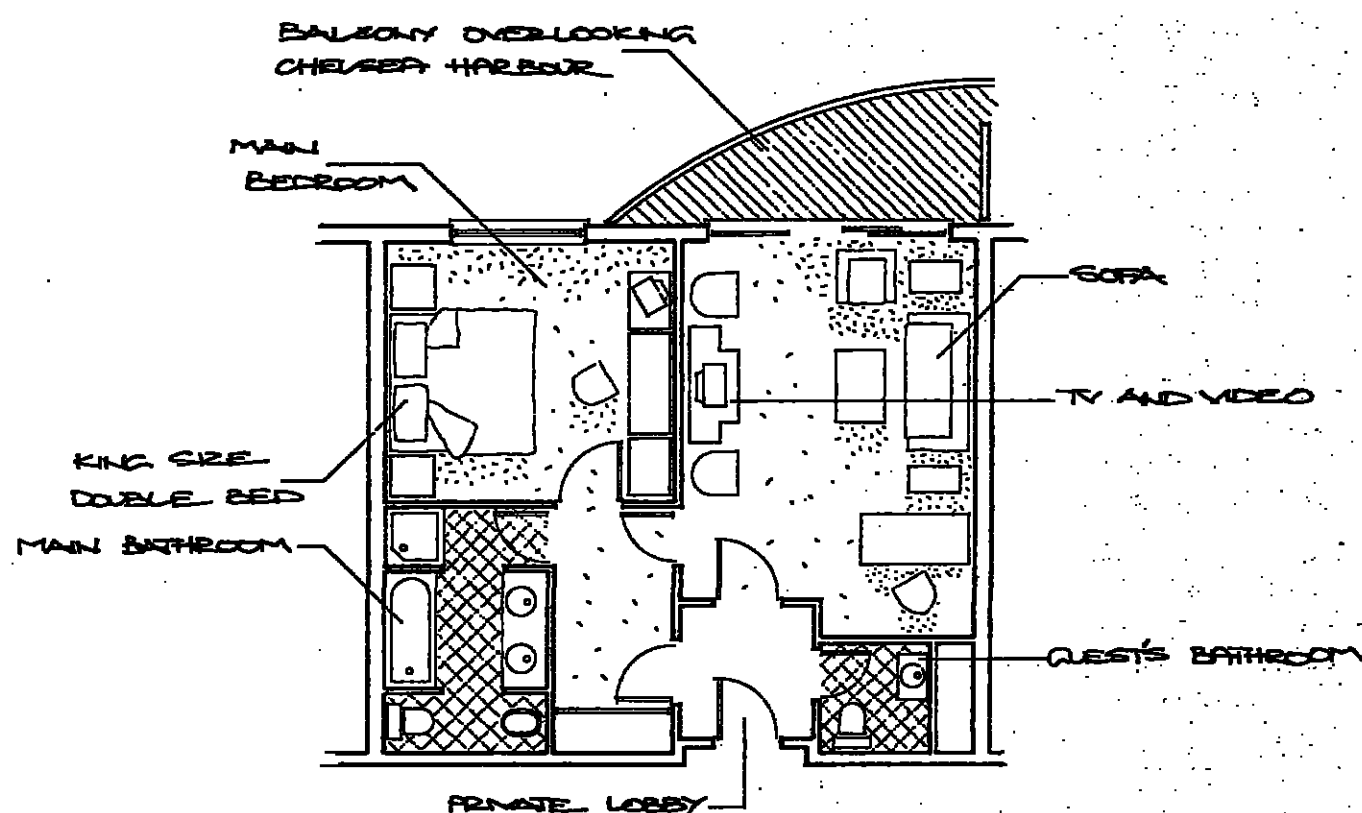
Professor Gingerich said the new species marked the first step in the history of the horse on the American continent.

The modern horse, having evolved after the arrival of much harder species of grass, has much higher adult molars.

In the same area of Wyoming, a 2,500-square-mile flood basin, palaeontologists have discovered in closely successive sediment beds, ancestral cows, sheep, rhinos, squirrels, tapirs and opossums, offering a guide to the evolution of the mammals.

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# Tories play poll tax card for votes

By Nicholas Wood  
Political Correspondent

THE Conservatives yesterday shrugged off the manifest unpopularity of the poll tax and made it a central feature of their campaign to keep alive their dwindling strength in Britain's council chambers.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, unveiling its "battle plan" for the May 3 elections in England, Scotland and Wales, said: "The community charge and the new system of local government [finance] are going to figure very strongly indeed."

However, Mr Baker is apparently braced for a further blow to the Government's fortunes even though the Conservatives start from the low base of 727 losses when the same seats were last contested, four years ago.

He declined to offer any forecast of the outcome before eventually saying that he did not expect the party to lose any seats and that it was going on to the offensive to win control of more councils.

Mr Baker and Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, made it clear that the Conservative high command has decided to try to make a virtue of a policy that has unnerved Tory backbenchers and cost the party dearly in the opinion polls.

Under the slogan, "Conservative Councils Cost You Less", the campaign will ask voters to choose between Tory value for money and the "extravagance and waste" of the Opposition parties.

It will attempt to pin blame for high poll tax charges squarely on Labour and Liberal Democrat councils and make plain that only the Conservatives can offer relief from crippling bills.

Some Conservative MPs will doubt the wisdom of drawing attention to the most unpopular aspect of Govern-



Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, addressing the launch of its local government election campaign, with Mr Chris Patten

ment policy but ministers can argue that the rare conjunction of national and local political concerns leaves them with little option but to gamble on a bold approach.

Mr Patten sought to drive home this message at the launch, in London, as he said: "Anyone who thinks of voting Labour as a protest would be making the most expensive protest of their lives."

The choice was between voting Tory for a low community charge and "paying through the nose" for the privilege of voting Labour.

Mr Patten and Mr Baker pointed to big differences in overspending between Tory and Labour councils, with

Labour metropolitan districts overspending by more than four times as much as Conservative districts.

In London, voters could save themselves an average of £3 a week by voting Tory.

The message was underlined by a mass of charts, posters and glossy leaflets highlighting Tory thrift and Labour profligacy in areas such as rubbish collection, rent arrears and education.

These included the innovation of the "chargeometer", illustrating the fact that the top 10 poll taxes were to be found in Labour authorities, while six of the bottom 10 were in Tory areas.

"Labour offers the miser-

able socialist double of high community charges and rotten services," Mr Patten said.

Mr Baker said that the only way to bring down the community charge was by voting Conservative.

Both ministers accused Labour of being "cynical and dishonest" by not explaining how its "roof tax" would operate.

Mr Baker identified the Labour-run councils of Brent, Ealing and Lambeth as Tory targets, together with the SLD strongholds of Richmond and Sutton. Attention will also be directed at results in Bradford, Trafford, Wandsworth and Westminster, where the Tories have water-thin majorities.

The local government elec-

tions will involve 36 metropolitan district councils, with a third of councillors for re-election; 115 English non-metropolitan districts, with a third for re-election; two non-metropolitan district councils with all members for re-election; 32 London boroughs with all for re-election; five Welsh non-metropolitan district councils, with a third for election; and 12 Scottish and Island councils with all for re-election.

The Tories are defending control of three metropolitan district councils, 54 English non-metropolitan districts and 13 London boroughs.

Of 4,538 seats for election in England and Wales, the Tories

are defending 1,439; Labour, 2,238; the Liberal Democrats and the SDP, 718; Independents, 121; and others, 22.

Of the 524 Scottish seats to be contested, the Tories are defending 62, Labour, 225; the Liberal Democrats and the SDP, 41; Independents, 107; the SNP, 37; and others, 52.

The launch of the London arm of the Conservative campaign was attended by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, who said that more than £6 billion was being spent on road improvements and new rolling stock for Network SouthEast and the London Underground.

Letters, page 15

# Jail riot was an 'explosion of violence'

By Ruth Gledhill

THE governor of Strangeways prison said yesterday that the riot there was an "explosion of violence" which was "the worst incident in the history of the prison service".

Mr Brendan O'Friel said: "We are dealing with something the size and magnitude of which I think is quite unequalled in our history."

Mr O'Friel, who was still unable to account for all the inmates, described the incident as an "act of violence of a size and magnitude that is quite difficult to comprehend". He said: "What we know about the injuries that the prisoners have inflicted on each other is further evidence of what I would describe as the explosion of evil that took place on Sunday."

He refused to comment on possible warnings that may have been given.

Speaking to the media in a house next to the prison, he said: "We have achieved much more than I dared hope when I saw the situation at noon on Sunday."

He could not, however, put a figure to the number of prisoners still inside. It was a "much more manageable number" but the prison was still checking where everybody was.

Mr O'Friel said he was an "eternal optimist" and was determined to get Strangeways back on its feet.

He added: "I have had some experience at looking at damaged prisons before. I was fortunate enough to go over to Risley the day after the disturbance last year. 'We have been dealing in my view with probably the worst incident in the history of the Prison Service'."

He described his actions since the riot began: "At about 11.15 on Sunday morning I was driving not far from my home in the opposite direction to the prison when my radiopager went off."

"I returned home quite fast, rang the prison and got the news that we were in very serious trouble."

"I headed for the prison at maximum speed. When I got there, which must have been close on noon, I found a situation where I think something like 1,500 prisoners were

out of our control. We had lost control of the main accommodation block. We had not of course got the staff to deal with an emergency of this scale."

He said the prisoners had already started on an "orgy of destruction".

In the first 24 hours, 1,200 prisoners were shipped out, "an enormous logistical exercise".

Negotiations began late on Sunday.

Mr O'Friel paid tribute to negotiators who had made contact in "all sorts of difficult and dangerous situations".

He added: "I am proud to be the governor of Strangeways prison and a leading governor in the Prison Service. The Prison Service has contained an incident of a magnitude that most thought could not happen to a remarkably effective degree."

# Call not to jail sex offenders

By Quentin Cowdry  
Home Affairs Correspondent

MORE sexual offenders should be punished in the community to reduce the risk of them committing new crimes and to help the management of prisons, a conference was told yesterday.

Offenders are more likely to reform if they are subjected to intensive probation orders, Mr Gordon Read, chairman of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said yesterday.

There was, he said, little treatment available for such people in jail.

"Sex offenders in prisons like Strangeways are segregated in ways that encourage them to deny their offending," he told the British Association of Social Workers' conference in So Down.

"Probation programmes outside prison aim to protect potential victims while challenging the offending behaviour."

# Capping threatens teachers and home helps' jobs says Labour

By Our Political Correspondent

THOUSANDS of teachers and home helps could lose their jobs because of the decision to cap community charges in 20 local authorities, the Labour Party said yesterday in a counter-attack on the Government's latest attempt to curb council spending. It also said that schools would have to wait longer for repairs and essential main-

tenance and that there would be fewer books for children and a loss of nursery places.

The Opposition riposte came 24 hours after Mr Chris Patten had advised Tory MPs to brace themselves for "a parade of bleeding stumps in a number of local authorities". The Secretary of State for the Environment had insisted that the councils affected could make reductions of up to £99 per

adult in charge levels and still maintain a "reasonable" level of services.

As the Conservatives disclosed, however, that they intended to make the poll tax a central feature of their campaign for the country-wide council elections on May 3, Labour sought to turn the clampdown on high-spending councils to its advantage.

Mr Jack Straw, its chief education

spokesman, said: "If the cuts fall proportionately on the local teaching forces, then a total of 2,875 teachers may lose their jobs."

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's chief health spokesman, said that if capping was applied *pro rata* to social security budgets it would be disastrous for the elderly and the handicapped. Total spending would be cut by £28.49 million, requiring the axing of 3,500 home-help jobs.

Mr David Blunkett, an Opposi-

tion local government spokesman, disputed the Government's estimate of the administrative costs of rebilling charge-payers in the 20 authorities, saying they could be £38 million rather than the £6 million-£7 million figure quoted by Mr Patten.

Mr Patten defended his decision and hinted that next year there might be less need for him to order councils to trim their spending.

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# 'Patient wanted to save his life, the donor to save his child'

By David Sapped

FERHAT USTA, a Muslim living in Istanbul, was desperate to sell his kidney to raise money for an operation for his ailing daughter, Colin Benton, a Jew living in Haifa, was desperate for a new kidney to save his life.

The Times can now disclose how these men, who were never to exchange a word with each other, ended up on adjoining operating tables at a private hospital in St John's Wood in London.

It is a story of two individuals whose despair led to their involvement with three prominent British doctors, an illegal Anglo-Turkish kidney brokerage business and a system of illicit financial arrangements.

**COLIN BENTON'S STORY** Colin Benton, aged 57, an accountant with joint British-Israeli citizenship, had been suffering from kidney disease for 12 years when in January 1988 he and his wife arrived in

London looking for a kidney transplant. They stayed at a flat found for them by the Israeli Embassy. Mr Benton began receiving dialysis at the Harley Street Clinic, hoping that a suitable cadaver's kidney from the United States, the normal source of organs for transplant into private patients in the UK, would become available.

As the weeks passed and Mr Benton's condition deteriorated, the couple were referred to the Harley Street surgery of Dr Raymond Crockett, a prominent nephrologist in private practice and medical director of the National Kidney Centre, a dialysis centre run as a charitable trust in Finchley. In recent years it has dealt almost exclusively with wealthy, overseas patients.

Mr Benton started receiving dialysis there but the cadaveric kidney still did not arrive. According to Mrs Rochelle Benton, Dr Crockett then said

that a transplant from a live, unrelated donor was possible but that it would cost an extra £20,000.

"I didn't know his (the donor's) name. I did know it was a Turkish man whose daughter was very ill and needed money for an operation," she says, adding that Dr Crockett had told her "not to breathe a word" about the fact the kidney was coming from a donor quite unrelated to her husband.

By now, Mr Benton could neither walk nor drive. The couple agreed to the transplant.

**FERHAT USTA'S STORY** Ferhat Usta, aged 34, a print worker, knew he was breaking a Turkish law banning any trade in live organs when he placed advertisements in the Istanbul newspaper, *Hurriyet*, offering his kidney for sale.

His wife opposed him but Mr Usta, who was earning £10 a week, decided that selling a part of his body was the only

way he could raise money for an operation on his daughter, Berrin, now aged nine, who was suffering from TB.

"After the advertisements were repeated for four days in the *Hurriyet*, Riza Nur Kunter (a retired naval officer) phoned me saying he was interested," Mr Usta says. "He said he wanted the kidney for his youngest brother, Ata Nur Kunter, residing in London. I agreed on a price of six million liras (about £2,500) because I thought I was doing a service to a fellow Turk, another Muslim."

Mr Usta flew to London in July 1988, bearing a letter from the National Kidney

Centre. The letter, intended to ease his passage through immigration, said that Mr Usta was coming to Britain to "join his relative in London who is undergoing a kidney transplant operation." It was a lie.

**LONDON CONNECTION** As Colin Benton checked into the Humana Wellington Hospital in north-west London, Ferhat Usta arrived in London to be met by Ata Nur Kunter, a part-time interpreter for Dr Crockett.

On July 15, he was driven by Ata Nur Kunter to the National Kidney Centre. He waited in the car while Mr Kunter went inside to meet Dr Crockett. Mr Ken Westall,

then the centre's administrative director, was asked to type a letter to the manager of the National Westminster Bank branch at St John's Wood where Dr Crockett and his wife Elizabeth held a joint account.

The letter read: "Dear Sir, re. cheque 002109: Mr A. Kunter. Please enable Mr Ata Kunter to collect the funds. £2,500 in cash, so a refund may be made to a patient to return overseas on Sunday." It was signed Dr R.E. Crockett.

According to a later conversation between Mr Westall and Mr Kunter — a conversation tape-recorded by *The Times* without the latter's knowledge — Mr Usta was then driven to the Humana Wellington before Mr Kunter went to the bank and collected the money.

**THE OPERATION** In hospital, Mr Usta was seen by Mr Michael Bewick, the country's leading kidney transplant surgeon, who was

to be in charge of the operation. He was later to tell *The Times* that he had waived a £5 note in front of Mr Usta, who spoke no English, to see if he was being paid. He said he relied on the clinician, in this case Dr Crockett, to ensure that a donor was not being paid or under any duress.

Fifteen minutes before the operation, Ata Nur Kunter went to Mr Usta's room, surprising the Turk who still believed that Mr Kunter was due to get his kidney. When Mr Kunter said that this was not so, Mr Usta demanded the equivalent of £1,300 more.

In the operating theatre, Mr Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist at Guy's Hospital, waited. Mr Joyce was to remove Ferhat Usta's kidney; Mr Bewick to transplant it into Colin Benton.

On July 16 1988, the transplant went ahead.

**EPILOGUE** Dr Raymond Crockett was struck off yesterday by a

disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council.

Mr Michael Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce were found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Mr Tunc Kunter, the brother of Riza and Ata Nur Kunter, was sentenced to two years imprisonment in Istanbul for his role in the kidney brokerage trade.

The Humana Wellington Hospital was cleared of any involvement in the kidney trade after an investigation by the Bloomsbury Health Authority.

Ferhat Usta received £2,500 for his kidney, which paid for an operation on his daughter. Her condition has continued to deteriorate, however, and now she cannot walk.

Colin Benton died on August 28 1988, just over a month after receiving Mr Usta's kidney. Mrs Benton also left with an outstanding £66,000 bill after the operation.

## Downfall of a man who dealt in high stakes

By David Sapped

THE personalities, attitudes and actual involvement of the three prominent physicians who became embroiled in the kidney trade in London have always been markedly different.

From the start to the inglorious end, Dr Raymond Crockett forcefully and repeatedly denied any knowledge of, or involvement in, the kidney trade. "My head is held high; I will have no trouble at the Pearly Gates," he once told *The Times*. Yet it was Dr Crockett whom the General Medical Council decided had knowingly participated in paid-for transplants.

Mr Michael Bewick, on the other hand, has always been a surgeon in a hurry. Nobody in Britain, perhaps nobody in Europe, has successfully conducted more kidney transplants. "We must get off our backsides and just get on with it," he once told the British Transplantation Society.

The role of the third member of the group, Mr Michael Joyce, aged 46, had always been peripheral. A widely-respected urologist at Guy's Hospital, London, he broke down at the hearing when he

accepted that he had not checked that the Turks whose kidneys he had been called in to remove (for transplantation by Mr Bewick into Dr Crockett's wealthy foreign patients) had not been paid.

Yesterday's decision by the GMC to strike off Dr Crockett appears to mark the end of a career that, in the 1980s, gave him the trappings of wealth, including a £750,000 home overlooking the Thames at Henley, a villa in Sardinia and a ski chalet in Switzerland.

Nobody knows how much the quiet-spoken Ulsterman learned from his work as a nephrologist, specializing in treating wealthy or state-sponsored kidney patients from abroad. It is clear, however, that the stakes were enormous: between July 1 and December 31, 1988, the Turkish embassy alone was billed by Dr Crockett for more than £517,000 for the treatment of about 18 patients receiving dialysis at the National Kidney Centre, a charitable institution in Finchley, north London, of which he was medical director until last summer.

Surprisingly, Dr Crockett did not give evidence at the



From left: Mr Bewick, Mr Joyce and (foreground) Mr Ferhat Usta, with others who gave evidence

GMC hearing. Questions about the identity of the paymaster behind the Kunter brothers' kidney brokerage operation and about why Dr Crockett authorized at least one payment of £3,500 to Ata Nur Kunter, his former interpreter, from his personal account were never put to him.

Questions about allegations that the nephrologist suggested to one kidney sufferer that he could buy a transplant organ from an unrelated donor and about an advertisement, bearing his name, offering to buy a kidney for

£10,000 were among many others never put to him.

According to associates, Dr Crockett is a very private man, and Mr Bewick once described the 51-year-old nephrologist as someone who "never appears to be telling you the full truth". His main pleasures away from work centre on skiing and spending time with his five children, aged between four and 11.

For Mr Bewick, who is 53, money seems never to have been a factor. In his determination to harvest cadavers' kidneys and do transplants, he

has left in his wake some frustrated colleagues, he has also restored to health hundreds of chronically-ill patients. They owe him their lives.

Yet it was Mr Bewick's dedication to "just getting on with it" that, not once, but twice, led to his involvement in paid-for kidneys. On both occasions, he said, he was duped: in 1985, when he conducted a transplant from a paid donor from the Indian sub-continent, and in 1988, when he became involved in the Turkish kidney trade.

Colleagues believe that it

was his single-minded devotion to transplants — to the exclusion of such administrative niceties as checking adequately that donors were not paid — that led to his downfall.

Dr Chisholm Ogg, head of renal services at Guy's, said: "He is totally devoted to his trade. He really does not do or think anything else but transplantation. It is this enormous commitment which makes him such a hard act to follow and has made him quite unpopular among some of his transplantation colleagues. He is not in it for the money. If a

patient ran out of money, he would still say: 'Come to me'."

Unlike Dr Crockett, Mr Bewick has always been much involved in NHS work, frequently working up to 20 hours a day, and his home, at Sydenham Hill, south-east London, is close to Dulwich Hospital, his main base.

He and Mr Joyce maintain that they left clinicians to determine whether donors were paid. In the case of the Turkish kidneys, the clinician was Dr Crockett.

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## Hearing could cost up to £1m

By John Young

THE hearing, which began on December 4 and lasted, with intervals, for 33 days was the longest, most expensive and probably the most unusual in the history of the General Medical Council.

With a small army of lawyers, including five QCs, legal fees alone must run into several hundred thousand pounds. Add to that the hours spent in researching and preparing the case and the cost of bringing witnesses to London — including the four Turks from Istanbul who were put up in a West End hotel for nearly two weeks — and the total is unlikely to be far short of £1 million.

All prosecution costs will be met by the council which has about 150,000 members who pay an annual subscription of £30. The doctors' costs are likely to be largely met by the Medical Defence Union.

In theory, a doctor does not have to belong to the council but anyone with recognized medical qualifications is obliged to register to practise within the NHS or the armed services and be allowed to prescribe drugs. Hence the ultimate sanction, short of criminal proceedings, is for the council to strike a doctor off the register, which means he effectively loses his livelihood.

The council's most publicized arm is its professional conduct committee, which has powers to apply to the High Court to compel witnesses to attend.

## Election deadline missed

A Conservative councillor has lost the chance to retain his safe seat after missing the deadline for nominations for next month's elections by two hours.

Mr John Green, a former mayor of Wokingham District Council, Berkshire, is out of the running after the Conservative agent, Major Russell Matthews, mislaid Mr Green's nomination papers and found them only after the nomination deadline of midday on Tuesday had passed.

## Power protest

Brian Lee, who threatened to shoot himself in front of electricity staff in Exeter unless his power was reconnected, was sentenced to three months' jail, suspended for two years, on firearms charges by the city's magistrates.

## Migraine alert

The RAF is reviewing its medical checks after a Phantom fighter crash into the North Sea which may have been caused when the pilot had a migraine attack. The pilot died in the crash in January.

## Back in time

A £6 million holiday village, in 18th-century style with a manor house and 60 stone-built cottages near Matlock, Derbyshire, has won planning approval.

## Skeleton find

A Bronze Age headless skeleton, thought to be that of a warrior, has been unearthed by a dog in the Brecon Beacons.

## River study

The Anglian region of the National Rivers Authority is to spend £500,000 making a study of wildlife on 4,000 miles of rivers.

## Opera goes east

The Welsh National Opera is to take productions of *Falstaff* and *Salome* to Tokyo.

## Seven teachers to lose jobs in budget change

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

SEVEN teachers have been made redundant at a comprehensive school so that it can stay within its budget under a system of school finance introduced by the Government four days ago.

The teachers at the City of Ely Community College, Cambridgeshire, were told that they had been "identified for redundancy" from the end of the summer term.

The 1,032-pupil school has had a £70,000 cut in its £1.66 million budget as a result of the introduction on April 1 of a new system of funding schools on the basis of the number of pupils on roll. The "price" on each pupil's head increases with age.

The City of Ely's intake of 11-year-olds which rose last year has been more than offset by a sharp fall in the number

of 15-year-olds. Matters have been made worse because the school has a large number of experienced staff at the top of the pay scale. Budgets are calculated on average pay although schools have to pay the actual costs. The Cambridgeshire "average" assumes that all teachers are on point seven of the 11-step teachers' pay scale. At the City of Ely College the average is at the top.

Although two of the staff named are considering early retirement, the school will lose its only Latin teacher and teachers of technology, geography, mathematics, science, business studies and home economics. A further three teachers who are leaving at Easter, including Mrs Wendy Down, the deputy principal who made Tuesday's announcement, will not be replaced, cutting 10 from the staff of 76.

A staff meeting yesterday heard calls for strike action to fight the redundancies and the National Union of Teachers promised legal backing for teachers who are to lose their jobs. Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, said the loss of teaching jobs as a direct result of the "ill-thought-out" funding formula bore out fears that it would lead to wide-scale redundancies.

"It is absurd that even though the number of pupils in the school will remain unchanged it will lose 10 teachers and will be unable to

deliver the curriculum that the Government has promised to parents," he said.

Mr Bev Curtis, assistant director of personnel at Cambridgeshire County Council, said that every effort would be made to find the teachers jobs at other schools although compulsory redundancies "cannot be ruled out".

He said that the teachers would not receive written notification of redundancy until all alternatives had been exhausted. The school's governors had yet to make a formal recommendation to the authority.

Mr Curtis said: "Some schools have been putting off getting rid of staff. But the introduction of local management means that now is make your mind up time."

Last month county secondary heads predicted that as many as 40 teachers would be made redundant, but Mr Curtis said that other jobs had been found for all but 14 of those affected. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers has claimed that the introduction of the new funding system could cost the jobs of between 15,000 and 30,000 teachers.

Last week a Surrey primary school teacher said she had been told she would be made redundant to make way for a younger teacher who was cheaper to employ. The county council said later it would not allow the governors to dismiss her.



MRS Marilyn Bowles, British's first Primary School Teacher of the Year, celebrating with her pupils yesterday, when she expressed sympathy with grievances behind the one-day strike by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers that affected schools throughout the country (Tom Giles writes).

## Classroom pay protest fails to halt most schools

By Our Education Reporter

LEADERS of Britain's second largest teachers' union claimed that yesterday's one-day strike over pay had been a success, in spite of indications that only about one in 10 schools was affected.

The union called its 98,000 state school members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland out on strike in protest at the Government's decision to impose a two-stage 8.3 per cent pay rise from April 1.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary-designate of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said last night: "It was a very successful protest. We were not desperately keen to close schools. The idea was to get the point across and we did that."

He said the strike, which the other five teachers' unions refused to join, had "set down a marker that unless something happens to improve pay, it is only a question of time before we are back to this kind of confrontation".

It was unclear how many union members responded to the strike call, but chartered trains brought an estimated 10,000 teachers from all over England and Wales to London for a lunchtime rally in Hyde Park.

Shivering through an unseasonable snow-shower, activists were told by union leaders that the Government had imposed a pay cut on teachers because the staging of

the deal reduced its value to 7.3 per cent.

The strike caused most disruption in the North of England and Wales. A third of pupils in Welsh schools missed lessons and dozens of schools were closed.

Thousands of children in West Yorkshire were told not to attend school and several middle schools in Leeds were shut. Ten schools were closed in Grimsby and Southcliffe, although most of the Humber-side's 439 schools were unaffected.

In Nottinghamshire, a NAS/UNT stronghold, one third of the 90 secondary schools closed.

In the West Midlands, another area with strong union support, 10 schools were closed in Birmingham, most of them secondary. Five out of 20 secondary schools were shut in Wolverhampton and three were closed in Dudley, with two more seriously disrupted. No schools were closed in neighbouring Walsall, although lessons were disturbed.

Pickets demonstrated outside schools in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and London. However, while some pupils were sent home, few schools were shut.

There were no closures in Hampshire, although many schools were reduced to teaching examination classes only. Up to 40 schools were affected.

Eleven out of 41 Dorset schools were closed and 18 were partially shut. Three out of five secondary schools on the Isle of Wight were affected, with one closed completely.

Somerset only managed to keep 14 out of 29 secondary schools open and the county council estimated that 15,000 pupils were affected. Avon said that three of its 480 schools had been shut.

Overall, it appeared that the strike failed to achieve Mr de Gruchy's prediction of significant disruption in half the 5,000 secondary schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## Student scholarship honours Lockerbie victims

TWO fifth formers from Lockerbie Academy have been chosen as the first students to go to Syracuse University in New York on a scholarship in memory of the 270 victims of the air disaster that hit the town 14 months ago.

Fiona Griffin and Katharine Grant, both aged 16, will spend nine months at the university which lost 35 students in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner.

The two scholarships will be competed for annually by students

from the Lockerbie area with university entrance qualifications in a scheme managed by the Lockerbie and Syracuse University Trust. It will be funded jointly by the university and the air disaster fund which has invested £250,000 for the project.

At a ceremony at Lockerbie Academy yesterday, the protocol setting up the scholarships was signed by Mr David Wilson and Mr Hugh Young, fund trustees who are also teachers at the school and members of Annandale and Eskdale District Council.

Also present were two members of the staff of Syracuse University.

Mr Drew Blake, rector of Lockerbie Academy, who presented the girls with scrolls, said that since the disaster links had been forged between the academy and the university.

"Any memorial from a young person's viewpoint should be living and ongoing and that is what the scholarship will be," he said. The girls would be gaining experience that they would cherish for the rest of their lives, "and they will be acting as our

ambassadors". The two girls were among 14 pupils who competed for the scholarships. They had to write essays saying why they wanted to go to the American university and were selected by Dumfries and Galloway education staff and representatives of Syracuse.

Fiona, who is a Sunday school teacher and school prefect, hopes to study law.

Katharine, who wants to be a doctor, will study a medicine-related subject at Syracuse.



# Opposition onslaught on loans guillotine

## STUDENTS

The Government's proposal to push through consideration of Lords changes to its plans for student loans in six hours was bitterly attacked by Opposition MPs in the Commons yesterday.

They described as cynical and equal the guillotine motion which meant that debate on Lords amendments to the Education (Student Loans) Bill had to end last night.

However, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the House had now reached the "wrap-up" stage.

Moving the timetable motion, Mr MacGregor said that the Government had responded positively to points raised in most of the amendments.

The Commons and Lords had devoted 90 hours to debate on a Bill of four clauses and two schedules, including about 40 hours in standing committee.

More than 360 amendments had been tabled.

These figures refute any suggestion that the Government has deliberately kept the Bill short in an attempt to prevent discussion on the finer points of the scheme.

It was important not to have pointless repetition. The motion would help to ensure that the scheme was ready for the start of the next academic year.

The Government would soon need to put regulations before Parliament and then more preparatory work would be needed before the scheme became fully operational.

Students would not welcome being denied a loan because of

subsidising. The objective of the Bill was to facilitate expansion of higher education, particularly by providing more money for students, and to lighten the load of student maintenance support on their parents and on taxpayers.

Students would have access to a 25 per cent increase in resources this autumn, compared with the present grant. The net increase to students' budgets from that time should be £135 million. That was a mark of the generosity of the scheme.

Mr Jack Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education, accused the Government of deliberately withdrawing the guillotine to lure the Lords, then, still considering amendments, into thinking there would not be one. To introduce it now was a "cynical and squalid manoeuvre".

The Government was allowing only two-and-a-half hours to debate 15 or possibly 17 amendments, 10 minutes an amendment. "I happen to believe that some of the more significant areas raised by their Lordships deserve more than 10 minutes of discussion."

They involved parliamentary scrutiny of the scheme, new powers to force university and college administrators to co-operate without adequate compensation, the position of disabled students, the marketing and financing of loans to students under 18. Some of the key areas had never been discussed in the Commons.

Conservative MPs were enraged, but one should have been there if they had an instinct for self-interest and survival. It was "Baker", because the Bill had the curse of Baker upon it.

When Conservative MPs cheered, Mr Straw added: "I am glad they can laugh before the gallows."

Mr Baker (now chairman of the Conservative Party) had created teacher shortages and a collapse of teacher morale never experienced before. The man who had increased the poll tax had cut and run and it was the same man who was cutting and running on the student loans scheme.

Those who needed help the most would be denied it as a result of changing housing benefit and a cut in the real value of the grant. The scheme, designed by Mr Baker, to be run by the banks, was in administrative chaos. The Government was even having to resort to setting up a nationalised corporation to run the scheme.

"This loan scheme is morally offensive. It takes money from those who need it and gives it to those who do not want it and wastes millions in administrative expenses." It was born, he said, of arrogance and incompetence.

THE SPEAKER (Mr Bernard Weatherill) told MPs before the start of the debate that one amendment passed by the Lords had to be rejected. He said that they had to disagree with the change which would allow students receiving loans to get housing benefit because it involved a change on public revenues.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said that the ruling would do enormous damage to the credibility of the House. The issue was crucially important to students.

Mr Straw urged the Speaker to reconsider the decision. The amendment did not involve spending new money but a continuation of expenditure already authorised.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under



## Rifkind's 'very small mercy'

THE Government's plans to ease the community charge burden in Scotland for those on low incomes but with savings of up to £16,000 were welcomed by the Opposition when outlined to MPs.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, had explained that he intended to set up a temporary scheme outside the social security benefits system to provide special payments for those affected. That came after the announcement in the Budget that the upper capital limit for community charge benefit was to rise from £8,000 to £16,000.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 people in Scotland will benefit at a cost of £4 million which will come out of the Scottish Office budget of £9.5 billion.

Mr Donald Dewar, shadow Secretary of State, said that it would be ungracious not to welcome the announcement, but he would be more impressed if Mr Rifkind had not

## SCOTS POLL TAX

vehemently argued until the eleventh hour that Scotland's complaints were bogus.

Mr Dewar said that what was being announced was a very small mercy measured against the poll tax disaster. Yet again the Secretary of State was "trailing lamely in the rear", splicing on to an already impossibly complicated system this *ex gratia* scheme.

The £4 million cost of the concession was much exaggerated by the Government. The payments were likely to total less than £2 million and many fewer than 15,000 would benefit. The average annual payment was likely to be well under £100.

The new scheme would do little to help that vulnerable group with modest savings

and a limited income perhaps boosted by a small occupational pension.

"If the scheme remains as it is, it will mean that for thousands hope will turn to disappointment and then to anger."

Mr Rifkind said that no one could say for certain what the final cost of the concession would be, but the best estimates were that it would benefit between 15,000 and 20,000 people, leading to a cost of up to £4 million. If it was slightly less or slightly greater, it would be accommodated.

Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, Lib Dem) said that the administration of the proposal looked like taking up a large part of the £4 million.

Mr Rifkind said that that was incorrect. The scheme he proposed was administratively simple.

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## Two or three cheers for the minister

### 'THREE GRACES'

THE future of the Canova sculpture "The Three Graces" will be decided shortly, with the ending yesterday of the deferment of applications for export licences for works of art, Lord Hesket, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, told the House of Lords during question time.

Questioned by Lord St John of Fawley (C), a former arts minister, about the future of the sculpture, he said the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry had announced on March 2 that he proposed to take into account private as well as public offers. "He is considering representations by persons affected by this change of policy and will reach a decision shortly on the Canova and on other export applications deferred until April 4."

The Barclays brothers have offered to purchase the statue and place it on loan for 20 years to the V & A and a Scottish institution.

Lord St John of Fawley said that he would give that reply two cheers. A private purchase would be acceptable provided the public had permanent access to the object. What had happened to the offer made by Lord Rothschild? Had that fallen into limbo or was it about to be resurrected?

Lord Hesket said that the Secretary of State was considering the interests involved.

Lord Strathclyde (Lab) asked the Government to delay a decision on export licences further so that the offers made could have full consideration.

Lord Hesket said that everyone would like to see not only a satisfactory solution, but also a speedy one. "The Government's position is in a sense at arm's length because 'The Three Graces' is the property of a private company."

Lord Peyton of Yeovil (C) said that the offer by Lord Rothschild deserved more than two cheers, more like three enthusiastic ones. It would result in the Canova's staying here and on indefinite exhibition to the public.

Lady Birk, Opposition

spokesman on the arts, said that she would also give three cheers — up to a point. There were differences between the two offers.

That by the Barclays brothers was that the statue should be on public view for 20 years, which in the light of its value was a dot in time. Lord Rothschild proposed to make the Canova a gift to the nation.

"It seems to many of us, including the arts world and the Museums and Galleries Commission, that that is a much better result for the nation."

Lord Hesket said that whatever offer was made by the Barclays brothers it was not being made to the Government. The offer was to the owners of "The Three Graces" and it was for them to decide whether 20 years' public display was acceptable. The offer by Lord Rothschild was a variation on an offer of art in lieu, which had substantial public expenditure implications.

Lady Birk said that £10 million a year was supposed to be put aside by the Treasury for acceptance of in-lieu offers. It had not been used last year and seldom was, so there must be money available. The offer was of a permanent gift.

Lord Hesket said that the key to Lord Rothschild's offer was that it was a variation which did not already exist, but was a scheme. That was one of the reasons why further consideration was taking place.

Lord Hinchinbrook of Lillingstone (Lib Dem) said that export control procedures for heritage items had always been based on the public interest. How was it possible for a minister to change that completely without any previous decision by Parliament?

Lord Hesket said that the change of policy had not been to restrict, but to expand, the opportunities for retaining artistic objects of virtu in this country.

## Bill would abolish charge

The Commons gave a first reading yesterday to a private member's Bill providing for a referendum on the abolition of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988, which introduced the community charge or poll tax.

Mr John Hughes (Conwy North East, Lab), seeking leave under the 10-minute rule to bring the Poll Tax (Abolition) Bill, said that the poll tax was immoral and would make the rich richer and the poor poorer. The poorest had to pay the same as millionaires or millionairesses. The blame for the tax rested solely on the Prime Minister's shoulders. She and her Cabinet were the tax dodgers in this case.

## COI agency under way

The Central Office of Information is to become an executive agency from today, Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in a Commons written reply. He said that he had set demanding targets against which performance was to be measured. They would ensure that the COI continued to improve its efficiency.

## 11,173 'mad cow' cases

Since bovine spongiform encephalopathy, mad cow disease, was first identified in November 1986 there had been 10,409 cases in England and 764 cases in Wales, 11,173 cases in all, Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, said in a Commons written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Easter recess debates on a variety of topics. Lords (11): Debate on EC border controls on people, and on health controls and the internet market. Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, second reading.

## Thatcher 'loopy' on arms

### DEFENCE

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, should take the side of Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, and not that of Britain's "loopy" Prime Minister, and oppose modernization of short-range nuclear weapons, Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said at questions.

He said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was totally irrational on this issue, but that the Foreign Secretary, if he was to be at all credible as a candidate for the Tory succession, should take Chancellor Kohl's side.

Which country were these weapons aimed at? Was it the President of Czechoslovakia, or the Prime Minister of Poland? Were they aimed at the Soviet troops whom Mrs Thatcher herself had said should continue to be stationed in East Germany?

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the purpose of all forces, conventional or nuclear, was to deter any possible aggressor.

The Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl agreed that to achieve that in the defence of Germany and Britain, a sensible mix of nuclear and conventional weapons was needed.

## 'Pill tax' defeat

### PRESCRIPTIONS

A MOVE by the Opposition to scrap this year's 9 per cent increase in prescription charges — described as "the pill tax" — was defeated in the Commons late on Tuesday night.

The increase took prescription charges to £3.05, a rise of 1.425 per cent since Labour last office. Mr Bobbie Cook, chief Opposition health spokesman, told MPs. He said the National Pharmaceutical Association had given him a list of common drugs that could be bought over the counter more cheaply than on prescription.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under

Secretary of State for Health, described the 25p increase in the charge as "fair, reasonable and prudent."

The drugs bill was going up at the rate of 13 per cent in capital terms, against which the increase of 9 per cent was reasonable.

The motion calling for the regulation bringing in the increase to be annulled, was defeated by 278 votes to 197 — Government majority, 81.

## Defence under threat

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

DELAYS with work on the Trident nuclear missile programme and other defence projects could seriously affect Britain's military competence, the Commons Public Accounts Committee said yesterday.

It found that the £9 billion Trident programme is suffering from staffing and management problems at the Atomic Weapons Establishment installations at Aldermaston and Burghfield, Berkshire.

There have been construction problems with the new A50 warhead production complex at Aldermaston and industrial action at VSEL, Barrow, where the submarines are being built.

The Commons defence committee is also preparing a report emphasizing the delays threatened in bringing the first Trident submarines into service.

The cross-party Public Accounts Committee said that, despite the various difficulties, the ministry's forecast in-service date on the Trident programme remains unchanged. However, we believe that as the contingencies built into the timetable are eroded by events, so the risks increase that there could in practice be delays, if not at the outset then in the later stages of the programme.

It called for prompt and vigorous action, particularly on the staffing and management of the programme.

The committee also said that delays in other

### TRIDENT DELAYS

defence equipment projects were harming military effectiveness and pushing up costs. "We are concerned that the number of projects with significant slippages to in-service dates and the impact that these delays have on both operational effectiveness and the costs of maintaining equipment in service."

"We urge the ministry to continue to press for realistic targets for in-service dates and to install tighter procedures to ensure those dates are met."

The 1988 statement showed nine projects which were at least two years behind schedule. Among those falling behind or rapidly increasing costs are the EH101 helicopter for the UK and Italian navies; Bases (battlefield artillery target engagement system); and the US jamming system, JTIDS (joint tactical information distribution system).

The report urged the Ministry of Defence to press for realistic targets for completion from contractors, after noting that agreements had to be renegotiated in several of the projects. "This underlines the need for contract conditions which are clearly defined at the outset and properly enforceable," it said.

Committee of Public Accounts, Ninth Report, Ministry of Defence: The Annual Statement of Major Defence Projects (Stationery Office, £7.40).

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newScientist

If forewarned is forearmed, then New Scientist provides you with a positive arsenal. Every week it's full of the latest developments in science, technology and the environment; news that appears in our pages long before it appears anywhere else.

Some of these events will affect the way we live, shaping attitudes to our own health and that of the

planet. Others will hold implications for the way we work and the kind of products and services we use.

If you'd like a comprehensive and reliable view of the future, look no further than New Scientist, every Thursday.

Get on top of tomorrow



# Evidence for dog registration is mounting up. We need your support now.

There are now 500,000 stray dogs suffering on the streets of Britain.

They get injured and killed on our roads.

They foul our pavements and parks. They attack people and livestock.

The chaos they cause costs Britain £70 million a year.

Yet we can hardly blame the dogs.

Because there's no dog registration scheme in Britain, there's no way of identifying the dogs or returning them to their owners.

Instead they're needlessly killed by vets, animal welfare associations and local authorities, at the horrifying rate of 1000\* unwanted dogs a day.

No wonder the RSPCA continues to campaign for dog registration.

The purpose of this advertisement is to ask you to write to your M.P.

Then when the dog registration vote next goes through Parliament, your M.P. can support it, convinced it's what you want.

But first we must convince you.

## The case for dog registration.

Dog registration would promote more responsible dog ownership in Britain.

Dog wardens would make sure every dog was registered and given an identification number.

Innocent stray and lost dogs could be identified and returned to their owners.

The owners of savage dogs, or dogs that cause any kind of nuisance could be traced and held responsible.

But being able to trace dogs to their owners isn't the only benefit of dog registration.

Dog wardens would also take on an educational role.

They'd teach existing and potential dog owners how to look after their dogs properly.

So, long term, a more caring attitude would develop towards dog ownership in Britain.

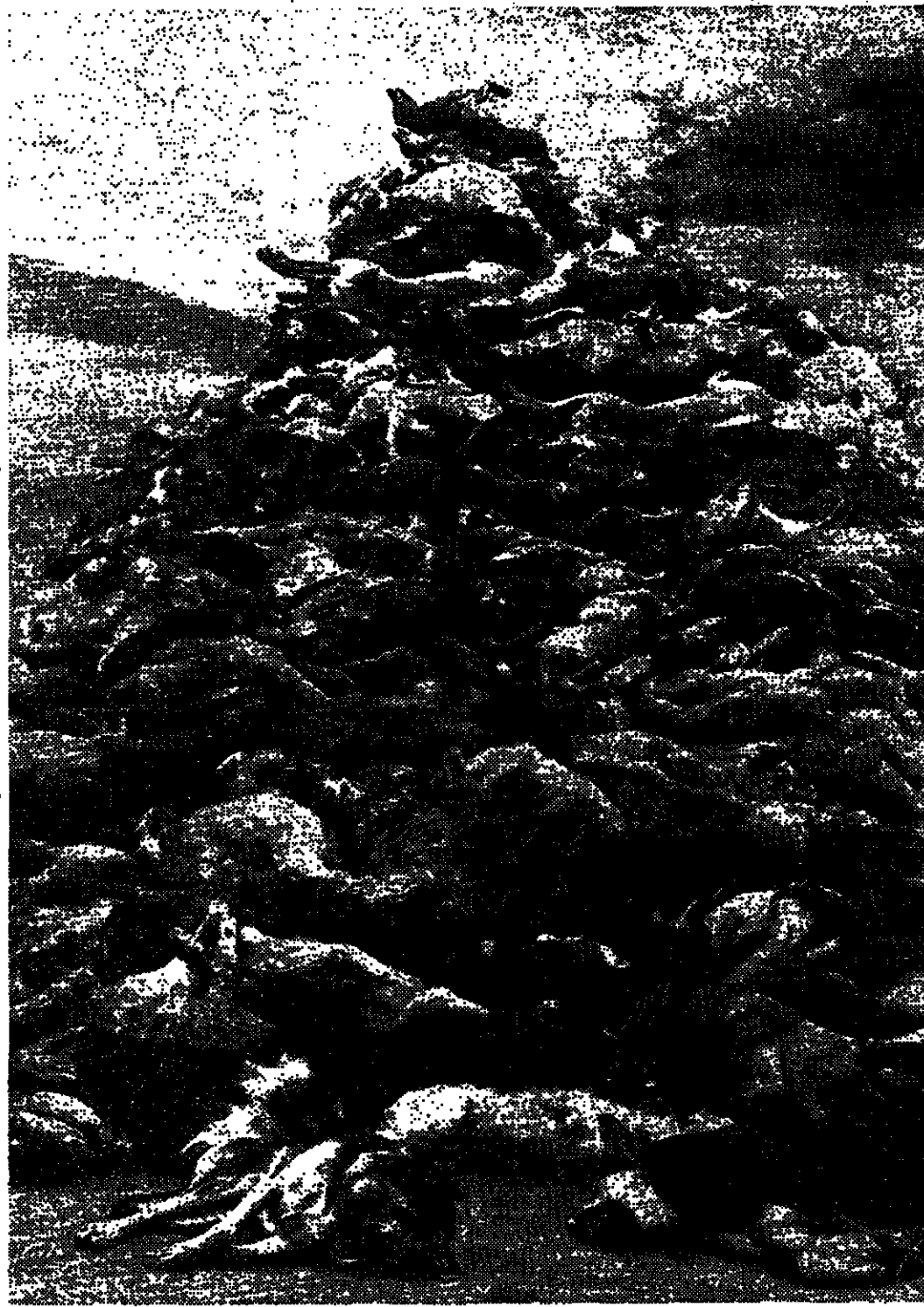
And it's for all these reasons that we believe dog registration is the key to the problems we currently face.

We're not alone in this belief.

Numerous public organisations who regularly encounter the problems of stray dogs agree with us.

A recent independent academic survey agreed with us.

And already we've seen dog registra-



tion and licensing schemes work in other countries. Isn't all this evidence enough for our cause?

## The cost of dog registration.

Apart from a registration fee paid by dog owners, dog registration needn't cost the country anything.

Dog wardens' wages could be paid out of the money raised by the fee.

And so could the scheme's organisational cost.

In fact, when you look at what stray dogs cost Britain every year, dog registration could actually save a great deal of money.

### Summary of costs:

Present costs for strays:  
(dogs registered with police only).  
Keeping, destroying or re-homing 240,000 dogs. £6 million  
Dog warden service. £6 million  
Road accidents caused by dogs. £50 million  
Hospital treatment of other injuries. £7 million  
Injuries to livestock. £1 million  
Total Costs about £70 million.

Costs of registration system and dog warden service.  
Total annual cost of registration system. £11 million  
Total annual cost of dog warden service. £31 million  
Total Costs about £42 million

Saving to society of registration and dog-warden services: up to £28 million

## The case against dog registration.

Some people say that dog registration is unfair on responsible dog owners.

Yet, poll after poll has shown that over 90% of dog owners support the scheme, and are willing to pay a reasonable registration fee.

(If they care about dogs, why shouldn't they?)

Other critics of the scheme say dog registration would be bureaucratic.

However, Britain's leading computer company, ICL, say "the operation of a central dog registration bureau would be a straightforward and small-scale process".

### Organisations that support us:

Association of District Councils	National Canine Defence League
Association of Metropolitan Authorities	National Farmers Union
Battersea Dogs' Home	National Federation of Women's Institutes
British Veterinary Association	National Union of Townswomen's Guilds
Child Care Concern	Police Federation
Country Landowners' Association	Ramblers' Association
Institution of Environmental Health Officers	Union of Communication Workers
National Association of Dog Wardens	Wood Green Animal Shelter

### Countries with licensing or registration:

Holland	USA	France	Australia
Ulster	Germany	Russia	

## If you're convinced, convince your M.P.

In Parliament, there's growing support for dog registration.

Over 300 M.P.s from all parties support it.

In fact, last year a vote on dog registration came within just 13 votes of winning.

The next vote may be very soon.

If you believe in dog registration, contact your M.P. today.

Because as every day passes, another 1000\* unwanted dogs die.

To: Freepost, RSPCA, Dept. DRZ, Bristol BS3 3YU  
(No stamp required) or phone 0898-141186.

☐ I have not yet written to my M.P. Please send me your information pack.

☐ I have written to my M.P. Please add my name to your petition.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_



Registration, not extermination.

1 RSPCA ESTIMATE



# Belgian ruler 'quits' over Bill

BELGIUM has been thrown into its most serious constitutional crisis in decades by King Baudouin's decision temporarily to relinquish the throne, as a matter of conscience, to protest against the legalization of abortion. His father, King Leopold, abdicated 39 years ago.

The Parliament is meeting in emergency session today to try to defuse the crisis. Ministers who met overnight on Monday have already declared the King's "inability to reign" and have taken over his powers to ensure that the long-awaited Bill on abortion is passed into law.

The new law overturns an abortion ban which has been in force for 100 years. The ban was severely discredited by the arrest and imprisonment in 1973 of Dr Willy Geers, a Belgian gynaecologist, for aborting a foetus conceived through incest, which he believed might be handicapped. Abortion is now widely tolerated in Belgium.

The new law permits pregnancies to be terminated in the first 12 weeks if two doctors independently agree that the mother is in "distress". She must also be given six days in which to reflect on her decision.

King Baudouin, well known for his abhorrence of abortion, vented his anger over the new Bill by devoting his new year speech to a homily on the sanctity of human life. Unable, so far, to have children himself, he and Queen Fabiola, who has suffered a miscarriage, have found the Bill especially upsetting.

The Bill swept through the Senate last November and was passed by an overwhelming majority in the Chamber of Representatives last week despite dwindling support attempts to block it by the Flemish Christian Democrats.

King Baudouin will be without his crown for less than 48 hours if, as expected, Parliament can devise legal wording to allow him to resume office with his conscience intact.

The King stood down under a law permitting him to do so if illness or "other reasons" prevent him from fulfilling his duties. MPs will today use the same force-saving clause to allow him back in.

They will consider a motion that his inability to reign has

King Baudouin of Belgium temporarily gave up his throne yesterday after his conscience refused to allow him to sign a law legalizing abortion. The Cabinet assumed his powers to promulgate the measure. Peter Gullford reports.

now ceased, "so that the King, from the moment of that declaration, will resume his constitutional powers", a government statement said.

Unlike Leopold III, his father, who was forced to step down by strikes and unrest in 1951, King Baudouin is too popular to abdicate, and many people regard him as a crucial bridge holding together the sometimes uneasy mix of Belgium's French, Flemish and German-speaking communities.

Because of his popularity, the King's meddling in politics has always been tolerated. He blocked the resignation of Mr. Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, when his coalition fell apart in 1985, and is believed since to have blocked the appointment of ministers.

The Belgians' reverence for their King is partly genuine and partly enforced under an old law banning all reports other than of his official engagements. Transgressors can be jailed for up to three years.

Little, therefore, is known of his private affairs, but many rumours circulate concerning the monarchy's relations with Zaire, once the jewel in imperial Belgium's crown, and the King is allegedly under investigation for smuggling chimpanzees from that country.

The law banning information about the King recently claimed one alarming victim. Mr Christian Bonvier, a lawyer aged 45 from Namur, wrote to the King complaining that his new year homily on the sanctity of unborn human life was ill-timed, given the suffering in Romania. He sent a copy of the letter to a newspaper and another to the regional prosecutor, who had him charged.

It appears the affair has now subsided only because the palace has distanced itself from the dispute.



Prisoner of conscience: King Baudouin refused to sign a Bill on abortion into law

## Dynasty dogged by strife

THE Belgian monarchy has had its fair share of controversy and tragedy for such a short history. Installed after the 1830 revolution against Dutch rule, Prince Leopold of

Saxe-Coburg became the first King of an independent Belgium. He proved a skilful diplomat, but his son and successor, Leopold II, provoked an international outcry with his involvement in the Congo.

The exposure by Sir Roger Casement of the exploitation of African labour there led to the end of the King's personal rule of the vast independent state in 1908.

King Leopold III, who married Princess Astrid of Sweden, became Belgium's fourth king after King Albert I was killed in a climbing accident in

1934. Queen Astrid died in a car crash.

The King's decision to surrender to the invading Germans in May 1940 put in question the restoration of the monarchy in post-war Belgium. The military historian Liddell Hart argued that Leopold's decision to remain with his troops kept Belgium in the war long enough to let the British Expeditionary Force reach Dunkirk.

King Leopold returned to his country in 1950. The unrest this provoked led him to abdicate the following year in favour of his son Baudouin.

## Royal rights limited in UK

By Alan Hamilton

The likelihood of a British sovereign ennobling King Baudouin by vacating the throne temporarily is probably impossible, constitutionalists agree.

There is no precedent in the modern history of the British throne: the departure of Edward VIII was permanent.

There are, however, examples of monarchs refusing to assent to parliamentary Bills. The last was Queen Anne in 1707, who refused to put her signature to an obscure Bill for settling the militia in Scotland.

According to Lord St John of Fawley, an authority on the Constitution, such a tactic would be unthinkable nowadays. "It could not happen. The Queen has to act on the advice of her ministers. She has to sign any properly constituted Bill put up to her. She would have to sign her own death warrant if it was presented to her."

To Dr John Barnes, a constitutional specialist at the London School of Economics, the issue is not quite so clear. "The Queen probably still has the power to refuse the Royal Assent, although such power is definitely in disuse."

There is another, ingenious way: when the Queen travels abroad, she creates the Prince of Wales or another close member of her family a Counsellor of State, with full powers to act in her absence. She could therefore take a fortnight in Australia while whoever she had created a Counsellor gave assent in her absence to an Act to which she felt overwhelming antipathy.

What the Queen does have the power to do is to refuse, or to force, a dissolution of Parliament. If the Queen were to keep her throne, one political party would have to support her position, and that party would have to win the subsequent election.

The creation of a regency would, Dr Barnes says, "remain a possible fudge solution", although there was no precedent, except on the grounds of the monarch's illness, as in the case of George III during his periods of madness.

Constitutionalists also point out that the Queen is debarrained from stepping aside by the anointing and vows of her Coronation, which bind her by solemn oath to serve until death: the reason advanced against any possibility of the Queen abdicating in favour of the Prince of Wales.

## King to leave exile for Romania tour

By Alan Hamilton

THE exiled King Michael of Romania is to return to his country next week for the first time since he was forced by the communists to abdicate at gunpoint more than 42 years ago.

The King, who is aged 68 and lives in exile near Geneva, plans to fly to Bucharest next Thursday in time to attend Easter service in an Orthodox church in the capital. He will then spend a week touring the country by car accompanied by his wife, the former Queen Anne, and three of his five daughters.

Two of his daughters, Princess Margarita and Princess Sophie, received a warm welcome when they arrived in Bucharest in January to inspect the damage that had been wrought by the Ceausescu regime on their country's architectural heritage.

His daughter Princess Helen, who is married to a British academic and lives in County Durham, set off for Romania yesterday at the head of a convoy of trucks carrying 120 tonnes of medical supplies, food and clothing raised by an appeal in the north-east.

Since the fall of Romania's communist regime last December, King Michael has said on several occasions that he is ready to serve his country in any capacity, but has always emphasized that it is a matter for the Romanians to decide whether they want him back on the throne.

Several of Romania's emerging democratic parties have said they favour a return to constitutional monarchy, but there has as yet been no major demonstration of popular support for the King's return.

The reception he receives next week will be the first reliable indicator of what support he retains among Romanians.

During a visit to London earlier this week at the invitation of Sir Bernard Braine, MP, Father of the House of Commons, King Michael told an all-party group of MPs that he would welcome immediate Western supervision of Romania's forthcoming elections.

He said the Romanian people did not wish to be seen as the poor of the continent, incapable of organizing their future or of joining the family of European nations as fully-fledged members.

"They are ready to be judged by the human rights norms applied throughout the continent by international treaties which my country has signed but which its communist dictators never respected," the King told MPs. He also called for aid from the West to help repair 40 years of damage that had been inflicted on a fundamentally rich economy by a communist dictatorship.

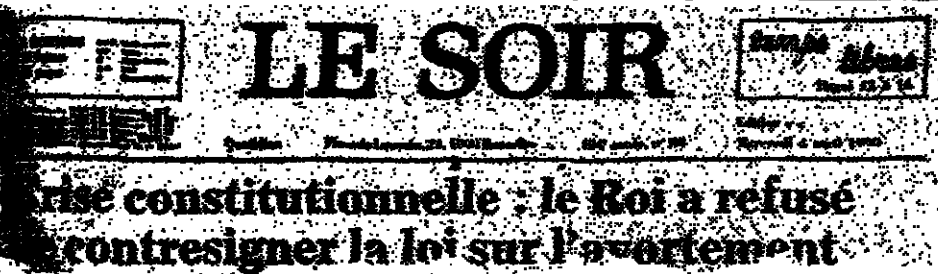
## Militia chief deals new blow to Aoun

BEIRUT IN ANOTHER blow to the defiant General Michel Aoun, Mr Samir Geagea, the hardline militia chief, said yesterday he was ready to relinquish all army barracks in the areas he controls to the pro-Syrian President Hrawi (A Correspondent Writes).

Mr Geagea, who heads the 10,000-strong Lebanese Forces militia, said: "Handing over the barracks to General Lahoud (President Hrawi's pro-Syrian army commander) is a practical gateway for peace and a solution to the present crisis." Mr Geagea was speaking in an interview with the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio. His gesture was another overture to President Hrawi, General Aoun's main rival.

Since January 31 General Aoun and Mr Geagea have been battling for supremacy in the Christian areas in central Lebanon where around a million people live.

At the root of their feuding is Mr Geagea's support for an Arab-brokered peace pact that brought President Hrawi to power. General Aoun opposed the accord because it provides for ending his leadership in the Christian areas.



## Television becomes battlefield for Peru presidential hopefuls

From Corrine Schmidt, Lima

WHEN Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian presidential front-runner first saw a commercial, now recalled as "the monkey spot", he applauded. When Peruvians saw the spot on television, they were horrified.

The commercial showed a monkey, dressed in a bureaucrat's shirt and tie, playing with a cigar, throwing papers around, and while swinging from a ceiling lamp, urinating. The monkey represented Peruvian government employees, and while it urinated over the mess, the voice-over noted sarcastically: "They (the bureaucrats) always worry about those below them."

The advertisement was withdrawn after five days of airplay. It occurred early enough in Señor Vargas Llosa's campaign to have only a minor impact on his long-term popularity. But it has come to symbolize the pitfalls of his multi-million dollar media campaign, the first of its kind in Peruvian politics.

For several months now Peruvians, and particularly the residents of Lima or Lima, have been bombarded with an ever-increasing diet of television and radio commercials (not to mention newspaper advertisements, street graffiti, posters, and billboards) urging them to vote for this or that candidate for president, senator, or deputy.

While every party has done

its best to catch the public's eye, far and away the most visible has been Señor Vargas Llosa and his centre-right Democratic Front (Frente Democrático) coalition.

Señor Vargas Llosa, who is the businessman's candidate, has had the resources to mount a campaign which none of his opponents can hope to match.

One campaign adviser said the neo-liberal novelist's television campaigns have cost "only" \$2.5 million (£1.53 million). But he added that every television station had given him preferential rates (something denied the other candidates), and many advertising agencies had charged him little or nothing.

Another adviser said that the total media campaign for all the Frente candidates had cost over \$8 million—in a country where the monthly minimum wage last month was \$29.

Other candidates have used these astronomical costs to attack Señor Vargas Llosa, with some effect. Peruvians are now seeing the issue of campaign costs as one of fairness.

Peru has no laws requiring disclosure of campaign funding, a limit on expenses or that the media offer equal rates to all candidates.

As a result, the differences in the campaigns are stark. Frente candidates have run more television advertisements than both Alfonso

Barrantes and Henry Pease, the two leftwing presidential contenders.

The issue of campaign spending is beginning to hurt Señor Vargas Llosa. His strongest supporters are white and well-to-do, in a nation which is mostly Indian or mixed-race and poor.

Señor Ricardo Winitzky, one of Señor Vargas Llosa's chief publicity advisers, admitted: "The poor still have their prejudices about Mario as the friend of the rich."

But his publicity team has designed commercials to lessen this prejudice. They show the candidate in poor neighbourhoods with the people, as well as explain his intentions about important problems like inflation, unemployment and terrorism.

To an extent, Señor Vargas Llosa has succeeded in defining his issues through television. In one commercial he promised to fight joblessness through foreign and domestic investment. This was surprisingly successful. "In this country, in the past, you couldn't talk about bringing in foreign capital. This has totally changed," said Señor Manuel Cordoba, a political analyst.

But Señor Cordoba and others agree that "Mario Vargas Llosa's popularity declines as you go down the social scale", and some aspects of the television campaign have done nothing to help that.

One recent advertisement showed a white woman (the

wife of the candidate's brother-in-law) leading what is nearly an apothecosis of the novelist, singing: "Let's go Peru, we'll make the great change and work in peace and freedom."

"It's a beautifully produced spot," said Mr Saul Mankevich of the polling company, Datum. "But the focus group studies among the poor say it's a commercial for rich white kids. And nobody sings the jingle. Everyone sang (current President) Alan García's jingle."

Another of Señor Vargas Llosa's adviser laments: "The music should have been *chicha* (a blend of Andean and tropical Latin rhythms popular in Lima)." Instead, it is the kind of modern pop heard in Lima's wealthier neighbourhoods.

Worst of all has been the deluge of campaign spots for Señor Vargas Llosa's fellow "Frenteistas" running for Congress. A peculiarity of Peruvian electoral law is that congressional contestants, such as the 40 candidates for deputies each party is running in Lima, must compete both against other parties and against their own.

The result due to the bloated campaign financing Frente has enjoyed, has been an oversaturation of advertisements. Tired television viewers and radio fans suffer through as many as five different Frente spots in a row.

## Four ways to cut your mortgage payments all under one roof.


The Mortgage Corporation has introduced a range of four cost-cutting mortgages.

We can help you choose from a low-start option which reduces monthly payments by up to £250, to a stable payment option which protects you from fluctuating mortgage rates. There's even a combination of both.

For further details, send in the coupon or call 0483 754258 and talk to one of our personal mortgage consultants now.

The choice could open a lot of new doors.

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POSTCODE	TEL NO (OPTIONAL)
Remortgage <input type="checkbox"/> Buying a House <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Buyer <input type="checkbox"/>	
 <p>The Mortgage Corporation</p> <p>Send to: The Mortgage Corporation, FREEPOST, Woking, Surrey GU21 5BR or consult your financial adviser.</p>	

Example: Loan £60,000; term 25 years; APR 17.1% (variable) including an estimate of legal and valuation fees; net monthly interest payment of £364.69 with loan repayable at the end of the term; mortgage guarantee policy may be required; loan secured by an endowment mortgage, minimum age 20 years. The Mortgage Corporation Limited, Dukes Court, Woking, Surrey. Example based on year 1 of our 531 product which allows 5%, 3% and 1% respectively to be deferred over a 3 year period.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

## Mayor flouts Rocard racism pledge

From Susan MacDonald Paris

NOSOONER had M Michel Rocard, the Prime Minister, said that the French Government would take action against people who made racist remarks, than M Jacques Médecin, the Mayor of Nice, provided him with the perfect opportunity to fulfil his pledge.

His discriminatory remarks on three of his town councillors, made on television on Tuesday evening, just as M Rocard's much heralded inter-party round table on racism was breaking up, were yesterday judged "scandalous" by M Louis Le Pen, the government spokesman. "At a moment when the

leaders of our country agree to fight against this racism scourge, M Médecin has distinguished himself once again by his scandalous remarks and dishonourable behaviour," M Le Pen said.

M Médecin gained international notoriety when he was accused of corruption by the author, Graham Greene, in his book *J'Accuse*.

Nice, which the right-wing Mayor and his father before him have run for the past 62 years, played host to M Jean-Marie Le Pen and his National Front congress last weekend. Among those invited to attend was Herr Franz Schönhuber, a former wartime member of the German SS and a colleague of M Le

Pen in the European Parliament. His presence, and the fact that M Médecin welcomed M Le Pen, led three Nice councillors to resign on Monday.

Asked on television whether he would now consider appointing National Front councillors, M Médecin replied: "If room could be found — and it is not I who has opened a space, it is the Jews who have gone." The three who resigned are all Jewish.

M Médecin said just as he knew of no Jew who would turn down a gift, even if he didn't like it, he knew of no mayor who turned down supporting votes.

The anti-racist organization SOS-Racisme says it will sue M Médecin.



# Gorbachov 'enraged' by Estonian declaration

Tallinn PRESIDENT Gorbachov criticized Estonia's drive for independence in a telephone conversation, the republic's president said yesterday.

Mr Arnold Ruutel, president of the Estonian Supreme Soviet, told the republic's official television that Mr Gorbachov used strong words and was generally very angry during their conversation.

In a later radio interview, Mr Ruutel said Mr Gorbachov lashed out at the republic's legislative declaration last Friday describing Estonia as an occupied state. "When I heard of your resolution I was completely beside myself. You must declare the resolution null and void. It is an invalid one," Mr Ruutel quoted Mr Gorbachov as saying.

"It seems to me that I have to introduce similar measures as those taken in Lithuania," he quoted the Soviet leader as saying. He did not elaborate on those remarks when asked by the radio interviewer.

But in the television interview, Mr Ruutel said that after he gave a precise description of Estonia's stand and said the republic would not back off its desire for independence, Mr Gorbachov calmed down. Estonia said last week it would seek to re-establish independence at the end of a still-undefined transition period. Unlike their Baltic neighbors in Lithuania, the Estonians are treating a more careful line on secession and have called on Moscow to start negotiations.

Mrs Marju Lauristin, Deputy Speaker and a leader of the People's Front political movement, called the conversation positive. "In spite of this first negative reaction, it is a contact and every contact is needed for negotiations," she said.

Mrs Lauristin said Mr Gorbachov demanded from Mr Ruutel a full report about the situation in Estonia, which she said was being prepared.

Estonia declared support for Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence and called on Mr Gorbachov to halt army pressure and stop "political provocations" against Lithuania.

Mr Edgar Savisaar, the republic's newly elected Prime Minister, said his Govern-

ment would focus on the restoration of independence, economic reforms and attempts to avoid conflicts between Estonia's ethnic groups. Ethnic Estonians make up 60 per cent of the republic's 1.6 million people. Slavs and other non-Estonian nationalities have expressed concern that the republic's move toward independence would hurt their interests.

● MOSCOW: The three-man Lithuanian delegation attempting to start negotiations here on the republic's independence returned home yesterday evening with little to report after a round of talks with a senior Politburo member (Michael Binyon writes).

The delegation, headed by Mr Romualdas Ozalas, the Deputy Prime Minister, held talks with Mr Alexander Yakovlev, a close adviser to President Gorbachov, but was unable to obtain any assurances on a start to formal negotiations. It also failed to meet Mr Dmitry Yazov, the Defence Minister, and Mr Vadim Bakatin, the Interior Minister.

Mr Yazov based his refusal to talk on the fact that the Lithuanians constituted a foreign delegation - the opposite to Mr Gorbachov's refusal to talk to anyone who was not part of the Soviet Union.

The delegation would not reveal what was said to Mr Yakovlev.

Meanwhile, the head of the KGB border guard said the situation on the border between Lithuania and Poland, closed by the Soviet authorities on Tuesday, was normal and no serious incidents had occurred.

Lieutenant-General Vladimir Shlyakhtin said in an interview that all border posts on Lithuanian territory had been strengthened, in line with President Gorbachov's decree on March 21 to ensure border security.

The newly elected chairman of the Council of the Union, one of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet, yesterday expressed optimism that a solution acceptable to both sides could be achieved through dialogue. But Dr Ivan Laptev, a liberal doctor of philosophy who has just resigned after five years as editor of *Izvestia*, called for restraint.

## Perestroika is threatened by economy crisis

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

SOVIET resistance to economic reform is so intense that President Gorbachov's liberalization package may have to be scrapped and the country would have to return to the old rigid planning system, a senior economic adviser has said.

The warning came as the Soviet Union recorded one of its worst economic performances in decades, with industrial growth falling by 1 per cent in the first two months of this year.

Mr Andrei Orlov, chief aide to Mr Leonid Abalkin, the architect of the proposed radical economic reform, told *Izvestia* that the current crisis was worsening and that a political decision would have to be taken soon.

"There is a very strong view that we should return to the positions of 1985, to tried and trusted methods and means," he said. Referring to the orthodox Communist system in place before Mr Gorbachov came to power, he added: "The command system has not yet been smashed, and nostalgia for the past is strong."

He said public trust in the Government was falling, and many senior politicians have realized that they now have a last chance to rescue public confidence.

But in remarks tinged with pervasive pessimism, Mr Orlov said an economic reform package scheduled to be introduced in the next few weeks could be rejected, the team of liberal advisers dispersed and the whole concept of a market economy replaced by the old planning system.

A failure to implement economic reform could be the death blow to perestroika, which is being roundly criticized for failing to deliver a better standard of living.

Soviet economists are deeply divided on how to implement the reforms, which all agree will be painful and could trigger unprecedented political discontent.

On Tuesday Mr Abalkin denied that Moscow would adopt a "Polish solution" - a

sudden and total dismantling of the centralized Marxist system, with radical steps to dissolve state monopolies and set up a market economy as soon as possible.

He said Poland had laid the groundwork for reforms over 10 years, and the present Government enjoyed the full trust of the people - implying that this was not the case here.

Poland, unlike the Soviet Union, already had private farms which could adapt to market conditions. "If we try to bring in the same methods in our agriculture, which is inflexible and pretty inert, they will, above all, reduce output and raise prices."

But yesterday Mr Vyacheslav Senchagov, chairman of the State Committee on Prices, said the Government seemed to favour a "middle way" between shock therapy and a gradual rise in prices to realistic levels. He said everyone now recognized that the absurdity of the pricing system was an obstacle to reform.

But even the "middle way" would eventually force the country to go the whole distance that Poland had, he said. The danger was that public confidence in the Government would be so shattered during the transition that no reforms could be implemented at all.

President Gorbachov has repeatedly called for "decisive steps" to spur the sluggish economy into a fully-fledged market economy. He appealed again on Tuesday for an acceleration of perestroika in a speech to his newly-formed Presidential Council, where conservatives and reformers are evenly balanced.

But the growing anxiety of his advisers suggests that the moment of truth may now be approaching, after repeated postponements of the politically explosive issue.

The task has been made even more urgent by news of the worsening economic performance. On Tuesday *Pravda* blamed the fall in industrial output this year on the recent wave of strikes.



A wheelchair-bound Lithuanian woman displaying a map of the country at a pro-independence rally by disabled people in Vilnius yesterday

## Vilnius envoy criticizes Britain's silence

By Andrew McEwen  
Diplomatic Editor

THE near-silence of the British Government on the Soviet clampdown in Lithuania was bitterly criticized in London yesterday by a senior spokesman of the new Government in Vilnius.

Mr Algis Cekulis, foreign affairs adviser to President Landsbergis, said: "Let us remember Munich."

Unless the British Government took a stronger line, he said, it would risk comparisons with Britain's capitulation to Hitler in 1938 over the annexation of Czechoslovakia.

"We expect nothing for our own sake but we are disappointed that the British Government is slow to recognize its own interests..."

He went on: "Now is the turning point not to use the influence Mrs Thatcher has (would be wrong). It could be that this opportunity will not arise again in this century."

He noted that the United States appeared to be more active than Britain, mainly because of pressure from the US Senate and the House of Congress.

Mr Cekulis flew in to London from Moscow, where

talks between the Lithuanian delegation and Soviet officials had broken down.

But he did not see British officials because the British Government has made it clear that its priority is to avoid making matters more difficult for President Gorbachov.

He said this policy was misguided. The British Government's fears that Mr Gorbachov might be toppled and replaced by a hardliner showed a lack of understanding of the situation.

"There is no need to remove Gorbachov because a hardliner is already at the

wheel of the country," he claimed. Mr Gorbachov was a man whose personality changed, according to the situation, and in his current guise should be seen as a hardliner.

The takeover of Lithuania had been similar to that of Czechoslovakia by Soviet forces in 1968, but more subtle. "It is the same as it was in Prague, but much more clever," he said.

"Moscow has learned the lesson of August 1968, and a huge smoke-screen is going on. From yesterday you had better not believe any news

coming from Lithuania unless it comes from Western powers."

"The Soviet Union is intervening now; it has sealed the borders; there is an information blackout," he said.

The Lithuanian state has not formerly applied to Britain for recognition but, he said, this was because it feared a rebuff.

He appealed to the British Government to consider whether it would not be in its own interests, as much as those of Lithuania, to recognize its country's independence.

## Secret police work goes on

From Peter Greer  
Prague

AT LEAST six Soviet KGB agents and six Czechoslovak secret police, the SDB, are working in each other's capitals, Mr Richard Sacher, the Interior Minister, has revealed.

He also said General Alois Lorenz, the former SDB chief and First Deputy Minister of the Interior, was arrested on Monday.

However, Mr Sacher warned against moving too quickly against SDB agents because such action could destabilize Czechoslovakia.

"Pressure might provoke counter-pressure," Mr Sacher said. "Excessive radical steps against the SDB can radicalize this section and thus destabilize the situation in our country," he added.

Mr Sacher gave no details of what the KGB personnel were up to in Czechoslovakia, but his revelation contradicted statements made to *The Times* last December by Dr Ivan Prusa, the man charged with cleaning up the SDB. He had said all Soviet advances had been sent packing.

General Lorenz, who ran the SDB for much of the last decade, is under investigation for his role in the beatings of student demonstrators which led to the November revolution.

Mr Sacher also admitted that the lack of competent and trustworthy replacements was holding back his efforts to clean up the SDB. He said he could not even rely on former security agents who supported the 1968 Prague Spring reforms.

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# Battle of Dinosaurs leaves Greek voters longing for catharsis

From Philip Jacobson, Athens

THREE general elections in 10 months are a severe test of any democracy. And if the mood in Greece ahead of next Sunday's poll reflects widespread apathy shot through with cynicism, that is hardly surprising.

The trio of big party leaders shuffling once more across the hustings are commonly nicknamed "the Dinosaurs", with an average age 72. For an increasing number of voters, they have nothing fresh to offer, no vision for an apprehensive nation beyond getting their hands on power.

Since neither of the two dominant parties — the conservative New Democracy and the Socialists — appears to have much chance of outright victory, the Greeks are facing the depressing prospect of yet another hung Parliament, with the third-placed Communists open, as ever, to offers.

On all known form, that means that patronage, arm-twisting and backroom deals will again smother the public's hope — longing might be a better word — for a catharsis that will finally produce a stable government worthy of support.

The opinion polls are forecasting renewed deadlock between Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the conservative leader, and Pasok's apparently unsinkable Mr Andreas Papandreu. But they also indicate a small but potentially significant shift towards Greece's version of the Greens. Benefiting from the electorate's weariness with old

style politics and growing concern about air pollution in Athens and other big towns, the loose grouping of almost 100 "alternative" candidates, campaigning under the Ecologists' banner, could go from one to three seats — enough perhaps to hold the balance of power if Sunday does produce another indecisive result.

Two patently useless coalition governments since last June have convinced most political observers that there is nothing to hope for there. The endless bickering about who is to blame for the looming economic crisis understandably enrages ordinary Greeks, who will bear the brunt of an austerity programme that cannot be avoided for much longer.

In the circumstances, the rocket that the European Commission's President, M Jacques Delors, has just fired off against the Greek Government is the hottest topic in an election otherwise lacking the usual exuberance of the Greek campaign trail.

M Delors warned the caretaker Prime Minister, Mr Xenophon Zolotas, that Athens must get to grips fast with its 16.5 per cent inflation and huge budget deficit failure to honour conditions attached to past loans from the EC, his formal letter also noted sharply, "is a serious concern for all of us".

For his own political reasons, Mr Mitsotakis decided to release the letter from Brussels, producing another unedifying slanging match. Despite reports that he and Mr

Papandreu are now on friendly terms, these two old foes still seem more likely to shake each other warmly by the throat. Despite their advanced years, both have been stumping vigorously around the country in search of the few thousand extra votes that would translate, with Greece's complex electoral arithmetic, into outright victory for the Socialists.

The other day, a helicopter deposited the conservative leader in the western wilds of Thrace, the poverty stricken region where Greece's Muslim minority is concentrated. They have traditionally voted for the right.

But last June saw the election of the new local hero, a Muslim surgeon called Dr Ahmet Sadik, who seems certain to win again on Sunday and thus deprive Mr Mitsotakis of some desperately needed votes from the area.

Mr Papandreu's strategy, beyond the former Prime Minister's belief in his own personality, appears to be aimed at convincing voters of the merits of a new Socialist-Communist alliance (the parties are running joint candidates in several crucial constituencies).

No matter that the Communists had previously vowed never to link with the Socialists while the scandal-ridden Mr Papandreu was in charge, that was last year, a very long time ago in Greek politics.



Griffith immortalized: An American and his daughter inspecting the handiwork of a graffiti artist in the Berlin Museum. It was painted in 1985 on the Wall

# Genscher offer to renounce nuclear arms

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

HERR Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said here yesterday that a united Germany might formally renounce possession of all but conventional military forces to ally Soviet opposition to its full membership of Nato.

Emerging from a White House meeting with President Bush, he referred to Soviet security interests and to "the importance in this respect of a binding declaration in which we will make it clear that neither today nor in the future will we have nuclear, biological or chemical weapons".

Herr Genscher appeared to be saying that a united Germany would be non-nuclear, meaning that Nato's short-range nuclear weapons would have to be removed.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, disputed this interpretation, however, suggesting that Herr Genscher meant that a united Germany would not develop nuclear, chemical or biological weapons of its own.

He added that West Germany was "determined to strengthen and to deepen" the pan-European Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) process by creating new institutions.

Mr Fitzwater indicated that the CSCE, which includes all Nato and Warsaw Pact countries, would play an increasingly important role. Herr Genscher and Mr Bush had discussed the CSCE's role at length and had agreed that it was "a good forum for providing a framework for stability as we go through the changes in Eastern Europe", he said.

He added, however, that CSCE would not diminish Nato's importance.

Herr Genscher said he hoped the first full ministerial "two-plus-four" meeting between the two Germanies and the four wartime Allies on the external security aspects of reunification would take place by the end of the month.

The Soviet Union is still opposed to a united Germany belonging to Nato despite German pledges to respect the existing Polish border and clear indications from the West that what is presently East Germany would be demilitarized. Herr Genscher insisted that a neutral Germany "would increase instability. It would introduce a degree of unpredictability in Germany and in Europe."

He said he assumed that reunification would take place not this year, but next, along with the first all-German elections, and insisted that there was "nobody, not a single person in Germany, who would question the present Polish western border".

He said he hoped a new East German Government would be formed by next week so that Bonn could start discussing economic, monetary and social union, and added that he had briefed President Bush on the European Community's progress towards political union through economic and monetary union and emphasized the importance of strengthening the US-EC relationship. "We should try to get... a declaration defining the common objectives, the common tasks and challenges," he said.

# Bonn speeds currency plan

From Ian Murray, Bonn

AFTER yesterday's agreement in East Berlin to form a coalition government next Wednesday, relieved West German government and banking experts are preparing a rush through currency union with East Germany by the summer.

Although no final decision has been taken on the exact rate, experts have also been asked to devise social security "sweeteners" to make it politically acceptable to introduce an exchange of one Deutschmark for two Ostmarks, in line with recommendations by the Bundesbank.

The subject was discussed during yesterday's Cabinet meeting here at a time when it was still not sure that the East Germans had been able to agree on a coalition. It was agreed even so that experts would have to work through the Easter break preparing the way for currency union, which is regarded as the essential forerunner of the social and political legislation needed for reunification.

With a grand coalition forming in East Germany, in which Herr Elmar Ploeth, an experienced West German Christian Democrat is promised the crucial economics ministry, a team can be nominated to negotiate the detailed terms of currency union.

Before going off for his regular Easter shrimming cure, Chancellor Helmut Kohl will chair a meeting of specialist ministers here today to make sure that the machinery is in place ready to go to work the moment the East German officials are appointed.

The East Germans can expect little real say in the way the final deal is put together, although Herr Hans Klein, the West German spokesman, made a careful statement after the Cabinet meeting insisting that no decisions could be taken until they had been consulted. The West German

Government, sensitive to criticism that it is simply taking over East Germany, is doing its best to go through the form of consultation.

In the end, however, the Bundesbank will have a much louder voice because it has to administer currency union and protect the Deutschmark from any adverse effects of currency union. Although its proposal for a basic rate of "one for two" has been condemned across the political spectrum in East Germany, it is arguing strongly that parity would fire inflation and undermine the stability of the Deutschmark at a time when its strength is needed to finance reunification.

The signs are that the Government will try to introduce social security measures to cushion pensioners and other vulnerable members of society from the worst effects of this rate.

Herr Kohl is predicting an economic miracle in East Germany within five years, providing people stay there and work.

Whatever the final decision, the rush is now on to prepare and pass the necessary legislation, along with laws creating a free market economy, in time for the summer break. The proposals are meant to be ready by early next month at the latest because two months of parliamentary time will be needed to pass them.

Politically, Herr Kohl understands that it is all a race against time. The sooner currency union is in place, the sooner the East German economy can begin to grow and create the wealth which will persuade people to stay.

If the negotiations drag on and currency union is delayed until the autumn, then a new flood of settlers moving West in search of quick money threatens to destroy the Chancellor's popularity before the elections in December.

# Germans keep 'wall' intact

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

GERMANY may be well on the road to becoming the "united fatherland" but as the artificial division of 40 years crumbles at even older gulf is widening. This chasm makes the East-West divide look cosy by comparison.

The Germans have always known in their heart of hearts that the watch-towers and barbed wire were in the wrong place. It is the North-South divide that everyone takes seriously. The two regions in both Germanies treat each other with mutual disdain.

The geographical divide has been at the centre of the ruse over the formation of a grand coalition in East Germany of the three conservative parties, with the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Liberals gritting their teeth at the negotiating table.

After talks into the night yesterday, the parties resolved to hold the first parliamentary session today to vote in Christian Democrat Herr Lothar de Maiziere as Prime Minister.

The southern Länder of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg in the West and Saxony and Thuringia in the east are described as "the white-sausage belt" because of their passion for this acquired taste. Southerners, they say up here, speak an impenetrably awful dialect and are unbearably hearty.

Meanwhile the Land of Schleswig-Holstein in the West and its neighbouring Pomerania and Mecklenburg over the border in the east are, as every white-sausage eater knows, the home of "fish heads" whose slowness of speech is matched only by that of their understanding.

This insight is the key to understanding the protagonist in East Germany's protracted coalition talks — the German Social Union (DSU).

This southern-based right-wing party which gained six per cent of the votes in the recent elections (guess where)

is the bugbear of the Social Democrats and an unpredictable partner in the Conservative Alliance.

The inclusion of the DSU in the alliance is the main reason why the SPD has taken so long to sign into a coalition and get on with the business of running the country before it stops being around to govern.

Ask Herr Markus Meckel, the jovial new SPD leader, what he has against the DSU and he mutters darkly about it being "remote-controlled from Bavaria", where its sister party, the Christian Socialists (CSU), has just lost heavily in local elections.

The DSU enjoys the bullish leadership of Herr Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling, a former vicar, who did not endear himself to demonstrators last November when he ejected them from his church because they were disturbing an organ recital.

He fought the election on promises of reunification tomorrow, if not earlier, and labelled the Social Democrats as "the legacy of communism". In Herr Ebeling's hometown of Leipzig, the DSU polled over 10 per cent while in the north it swayed dismally between one and two per cent.

Good northerners like Herr Meckel (he is, incidentally from Mecklenburg) become inarticulate with rage at the mere mention of the DSU or its western sister, the CSU.

Asked recently what he thought was so awful about Bavaria, Herr Meckel ran through a list of gripes and ended with the balanced judgement "I just have to think of Bavaria and I feel sick".

Queasy or not, the Social Democrats finally have had to accept the white-sausage party, although they are still settling harsh conditions such as the relegation of the DSU to the margins of decision-making.

# Hurd in troops warning

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, yesterday predicted a "sizeable transitional period" before Soviet troops could be removed from East Germany and Poland.

Giving evidence to the Commons foreign affairs committee he said that such a breathing space might help assuage Moscow's fears of a united Germany within Nato.

In a statement he suggested that acceptance of Soviet troops in East Germany might be the price to pay for persuading the Soviet Union to accept membership.

"Membership of Nato by a united Germany is essential. It is a very difficult thing for the Soviet Union to accept for historical reasons," he said. "They (the Russians) are maintaining in public statements a traditional opposition. What is not clear to me is how deep that opposition really goes. I hope it may be possible to persuade them that it is actually in the interests of the security of the Soviet Union that a united Germany should be part of the alliance."

Although Mrs Thatcher said last week that the US, Britain and France should keep "sizeable forces" in Germany, Mr Hurd told the committee there was now general agreement that non-German troops should not be stationed in the east of a united Germany.

He predicted the forum for overseeing the changes in Europe should be the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) which will hold a summit later this year to discuss moves towards a reunified Germany and changes in Eastern Europe.

"One can envisage a CSCE system which builds a new storey on the Helsinki Final Act and strengthens what is already there on human rights and borders...", he said.

# Soviet 'promises' misled East Berlin

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin



Herr Mielke: Lulled into complacency by Moscow

ONE of the most mysterious and powerful figures within East Germany's former hierarchy has emerged from hiding in West Germany to speak for the first time of Soviet disinformation channelled into the East German security service in the last days of the regime.

Herr Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, a colonel in the Ministry of State Security who, since 1966, had been responsible for the shady acquisition of hard currency, said in an interview with the West German newspaper *Die Welt* yesterday that Herr Erich Mielke, the State Security Minister, was led to believe that the Soviets would intervene at the last moment to prevent the collapse of socialism in East Germany.

He said that Herr Egon Krenz, Herr Erich Honecker's successor as leader, had already had talks with the Soviet

Ambassador in East Berlin about his intention to topple the hard-line leader and introduce Soviet-type reforms.

"Mielke was convinced that the Soviet Union would, as he put it, not let East Germany go astray," Herr Schalck-Golodkowski said. "Mielke was kept informed by the Russians right up until the last minute, but the information was false as it turned out."

Herr Schalck-Golodkowski emerged as a member of a privileged inner circle only with the advent of Herr Krenz as leader. He was tipped for a top post, but fled the country in December after questions were asked about his role in alleged drug and weapon smuggling, and the discovery of antiques and paintings in his luxury home led to allegations of corruption.

After escaping from East Germany, he gave himself up

in West Berlin, only to be released by the West Germans to the fury of the East, which believes him to have hoarded state funds. Since the beginning of the year, he has been unbending himself to the West German Secret Service.

Herr Schalck-Golodkowski said he left East Germany because he feared assassination by his former Stasi colleagues after Herr Wolfgang Schwanzitz, the then head of the Office of National Security, disowned him by destroying his file.

He was responsible for the secret export firm that delivered weapons and tanks in return for hard currency, but denies that he knew of alleged drug and antique smuggling rackets conducted by the former government. "My job — and it was damned difficult — was to keep the GDR out of insolvency," he said. He

claims the currency he acquired was used for hospitals and universities, although he admits that Herr Honecker had a personal account of DM100 million (£333,000).

The picture that emerges is one of economic chaos thinly disguised as success by men desperate to hold on to their spurious positions. Herr Honecker, he said, believed the mass rallies put on for his pleasure truly represented the mood of the country, while Herr Gunter Mittag, his economic chief, "knew that the policies were driving us into ruin", but continued regardless.

Herr Schalck-Golodkowski has settled in the south of West Germany with his wife. Most of his erstwhile colleagues are awaiting trial in East Germany. There, they call him simply, "the one who got away".

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# Peking courts UK co-operation as Basic Law passed

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

WITH only a few dissenting votes, China's National People's Congress (parliament) yesterday approved the Basic Law, the mini-constitution for Hong Kong after 1997.

There were 2,660 votes for and 16 against with 37 abstentions. The vote was applauded for 30 seconds.

At a press conference later, Mr Wu Xueqian, a Vice-Premier, called for the British Government to co-operate with China for the next seven years "to ensure a steady transition period and a smooth transfer of power on July 1, 1997".

He said that all preparations for the handover must comply with the Basic Law before 1997. Critics of the British Government say that its willingness to co-operate with China and to work towards compliance with the Basic Law means that China is effectively regaining control of Hong Kong long before 1997.

A flurry of administrative decisions on Hong Kong was passed at the same closing session of the Congress yesterday, all with similarly small votes against.

China has recently expressed anger about the British Government's nationality package, and has threatened that it will not, after 1997, honour British passports issued under the scheme.

China says that Hong Kong residents are Chinese citizens, and as such must receive permission before they can surrender their citizenship.

Xinhua, the official Chinese

news agency, recently quoted a government official, a descendant of China's last Emperor, as saying that the return of Hong Kong to the mainland would be like the return of a kidnapped child to its parents.

In schools and colleges, students have been told to embark on a study of the Opium War of 1839 to 1842 which China lost to Britain. The study is supposed to teach young people about the evils of imperialism, especially British imperialism.

The Opium War concluded with the treaty under which Hong Kong was ceded to Britain.

The war was fought over British exports of opium to China, which the Chinese Government wanted to halt. Britain continued with the trade after they won the war.

The promulgation of the Basic Law was in fact one of the least controversial votes at the Congress yesterday.

While there were only 12 votes against the work report of Mr Li Peng, the Premier, there were 220 abstentions — an unusual show of disunity.

There were 70 votes against the budget — which awarded a large increase in funding to the Army and, some said, not enough to agriculture — with 93 abstentions.

All votes were cast on the new electronic push-button equipment which, the media insists, keeps no record of how deputies voted.

After the closing session, Mr Li, appearing relaxed and

confident in a dark Western suit, gave a press conference at which he delivered a veiled warning to France.

He would not confirm that Mrs Chai Ling and Mr Feng Congde, her husband, who are both student leaders, had fled China and were living in France as has been reported in Hong Kong.

But he reminded the French Government that it had undertaken not to permit subversion on its soil against a government with which it maintained diplomatic relations.

Mr Li said that questions about last June's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators were no longer relevant, but were "outmoded". Significantly, he failed to apportion responsibility for the order to open fire on the night of June 3.

In the official report of what happened there is no reference to any orders to open fire.

The report simply says that soldiers fired into the air when they could no longer tolerate citizens blocking their path and attacking them.

Chinese sources say that the Government's refusal to admit that it issued an order to open fire has angered army officers, who insist that they merely obeyed orders in attacking the demonstrators.

The sources add that the Administration is afraid that, if anyone admits issuing the order, the admission will one day be used against members of the Government in a court of law.



Armed Chinese police patrolling Tiananmen Square in central Peking yesterday as the anniversary of last year's pro-democracy demonstrations approaches

## Egypt 'close' to achieving a nuclear capability

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

IN AN ominous twist to the escalating hi-tech arms race in the Middle East, there are strong indications that Egypt has joined the secret list of Islamic nations close to achieving a nuclear capability.

Yesterday all Cairo's semi-official newspapers carried a report of an article in the Bahraini daily, *Al-Ayam*, claiming that the Central Intelligence Agency was currently investigating co-operation between Egypt and Argentina to produce six kilograms (13.2 lb) of plutonium, described as sufficient to manufacture a nuclear bomb.

The report was seen in diplomatic circles as a thinly veiled response to Israel's spectacular launch on Tuesday of a second spy satellite, which itself came after threats from Iraq — one of Egypt's closest allies — that half of Israel would be destroyed in the event of an Israeli pre-emptive strike.

"The Egyptians are letting it be known to their own people that they are not being left behind in the nuclear arms race, without admitting anything openly," said a Western military expert, one of the many convinced that Egypt will join the nuclear club within the next few years.

The latest edition of the pro-government Cairo weekly, *Maya*, known for its close links to President Mubarak, quoted a US naval intelligence chief as telling Congress in the wake of the exposure of Iraq's efforts to smuggle nuclear triggers through London that Egypt was ahead of Iraq in the production of a nuclear bomb.

The magazine appeared to give credibility to Israeli press reports that Egypt — in co-operation with Argentina, Pakistan and Iraq — was in the process of developing a 20 megawatt nuclear reactor capable of producing sufficient material to manufacture a nuclear device.

A British expert was quoted as stating that Iraq and Pakistan were co-operating in establishing the reactor on Egyptian soil.

The report was accompanied by a claim by Egypt's Minister of Electric Power and Energy, Mr Maher Abaza, that Egypt's nuclear research programme was above board and conducted openly under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency based in Vienna.

The minister also pointed out that Egypt was a signatory of the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

However, observers in Cairo who have long suspected Egypt of conducting a secret nuclear programme noted that Iraq was also a signatory of the treaty and was even a member of the organization's board of governors.

It has been an open secret for some time that Egypt, Argentina and Iraq have been collaborating closely on the manufacture of an inter-continental ballistic missile known both as the Badr-2000 or the Condor-2, with a range of 600 miles and the capability of carrying a nuclear payload.

The multi-billion-dollar project, assisted by a number of West European companies, is understood to have been speeded up after Israel's launching of its first spy satellite in September, 1988, and Soviet reports a year later that it had test launched its own ballistic missile with a range of 800 miles.

Soon after the launching of the first satellite, Ofek-1, Major-General Ahmed Nabil Ibrahim, a leading Egyptian strategist, urged Arab states to co-operate in building a nuclear deterrent. "Israel cer-

tainly possesses nuclear weapons and, since it remains the Arabs' arch enemy in the foreseeable future, we have no choice but to obtain a nuclear deterrent," the general stated.

"It is extremely important for the Arabs to start a nuclear industry which cannot be bought or sold," he said, adding in remarks similar to those made by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on Monday that if Israel attacked such an Arab project, Arab states would have to retaliate with weapons which could reach the heart of Israel.

The Condor-2 project, reported to have suffered a number of financial difficulties and now based mainly on Iraqi territory, caused concern to the British Government as it was seen as a potential threat to the Falklands. Egypt's co-operation with Argentina was first publicized in 1987.

A year later, several Egyptian nationals and military officers were arrested in the US on charges of trying to smuggle out "carbon-carbon" material which is usable for missile nose cones. Work on the programme in Egypt is believed to be carried out at the Sakr missile factory outside Cairo.

Military analysts disagree over when the Condor-2 will be ready for use, with some reports saying that it could be operative by the end of this year. They said that Egypt was also involved in a less publicized missile project with North Korea and noted that a high-level North Korean delegation left Cairo on Tuesday after three days of talks.

The extreme climate of nervousness in the Middle East, generated by Iraq's chemical weapons threat and Israel's response, has been compared by both Arab and Western diplomats to the build-up of war fever in the region before the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Iraq's hard-line Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz, added to the climate of instability by accusing Israel of planning attacks against Iraq to avoid losing its military edge.

In a further sign of the Arab world rallying in support of Iraq, the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, is to visit Baghdad later this month.

## Potential members of the club

By Michael Evans  
Defence Correspondent

A NUMBER of countries, apart from Israel and Iraq, are either close to or have the capability to develop nuclear arms.

South Africa, reportedly with Israeli help, has developed the technology and is known to have carried out one nuclear test.

Other potential members of the nuclear club include Pakistan and India, both capable of producing bombs. They also have the appropriate delivery systems. A US study estimated Pakistan would have enough nuclear material to build 10 bombs, and India about 100.

Taiwan started a nuclear programme 10 years ago but was stopped by Washington. Brazil and Argentina have the necessary technology to go nuclear.

North Korea is reported to be building installations for the purpose of developing nuclear weapons.

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# US Senate backs tough measures to fight pollution

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE US Senate has overwhelmingly approved what is probably the toughest clean air legislation in the world, aiming to curtail drastically acid rain, urban smog and toxic waste emissions by the turn of the century.

By 89 votes to 11 late on Tuesday night senators approved a carefully crafted compromise that finally managed to bridge the opposing interests of coalmining, industrial and car-producing states on the one hand and environmentally sensitive states on the other.

Those conflicting interests were responsible for a 13-year legislative deadlock which snarled several attempts during the 1980s to revise the feebly-enforced Clean Air Act of 1970. During that time atmospheric pollution grew steadily worse, with more than 100 cities recording unhealthy levels of smog and mounting evidence of ecological damage, particularly in New England.

President Bush, whose Administration can boast of no significant domestic achievements to date, described the vote as "historic" and said it would "affect generations to come as we work to build a cleaner, safer America".

The Democratic Senate leader, Mr George Mitchell, spent a month constructing the compromise with the White House, which had unveiled its own far-reaching Bill last July but was concerned to keep down costs to industry, and then skillfully steered it through the Senate.

He called the vote a "tremendous victory for the American people who can look forward to cleaner air for decades to come".

The House of Representatives has still to consider its

version of the Bill, but in several areas that looks likely to be even tougher than the Senate's.

The Senate version attacks pollution on three fronts — urban smog, toxic chemicals and acid rain, and the Administration expects it to cost industry ultimately around \$21.5 billion (£13.4 billion) a year on top of the estimated \$33 billion cost of meeting present pollution laws. Most of the extra costs would be passed on to consumers.

On smog, it states that all US cities must comply, through monitored annual improvements of 4 per cent, with federal health standards by 2000, with nine of the worst given until 2005 and Los Angeles, until 2010.

The ubiquitous car is the principal target. Car makers will have to introduce far tighter exhaust standards. Over three years to 1995 nitrogen oxide emissions will have to be cut by 60 per cent and hydrocarbons by 40 per cent, with a second round of 50 per cent cuts if necessary in 2003. Even stricter cuts, involving new "super-clean fuel", will be required in the nine smoggiest cities.

To curb acid rain, the Senate Bill requires the 111 dirtiest power stations to cut sulphur dioxide emissions by 5 million tonnes by 1995, and over 300 power plants to make a further 5 million tonnes cut by 2000, giving a total cut of about 50 per cent on present levels.

Nitrogen oxide emissions would also be reduced substantially.

After 2000 there would be a nationwide cap on sulphur dioxide emissions, but power plants that clean up more than required will be able to sell their "allowances" to dirtier

plants. The toxic emissions legislation requires industry to install the best available technology to reduce discharges into the atmosphere of 200 dangerous chemicals by between 75 and 90 per cent by 2000. Thereafter further action would be taken, if necessary, on a plant-by-plant basis.

Industrialists opposed to the Bill gave a warning that the costs will far outweigh the potential benefits and will lead to thousands of job losses. Environmentalists contend that the Bill does not go far enough.

Scores of lobbyists for both camps are now descending on the House of Representatives.

Mr Mitchell said that he would work to have the legislation tightened still further in the House, but he knows that President Bush would veto the Bill if its present balance between costs to industry and benefits to the environment was destroyed.

The Clean Air Working Group, an industry lobbying organization, said it believed the cost to industry would be nearer to \$50 billion and would mean between 200,000 and 750,000 job losses. The National Association of Manufacturers called the Bill a "regulatory disaster".

Car makers have calculated that the Bill will add more than \$100 to the cost of a new car, and are expected to resist strongly a provision in the House Bill which calls on them to certify a "capability" to produce a million cars by 1997 capable of running on clean fuels in the nine smoggiest cities.

These are Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Milwaukee, San Diego and Hartford, Connecticut.



Nepalese vandalizing a government lorry and bulldozer sent in to clear barricades in the town of Patan set up after two pro-democracy demonstrators were killed and seven injured by police. Unrest has rocked Kathmandu Valley since the democracy campaign began in February

## Turtle madness leaves America shell-shocked

From Charles Bremner, New York

ASK any American child to identify Leonardo, Donatello, Michelangelo and Raphael. You will almost certainly be told that they are a bunch of loud-mouthed, pizza-eating turtles who live in the New York sewers.

A knowledge of Renaissance art is not required to join in the most bizarre cultural phenomenon to engulf the United States since... well, the manufactured Batman craze of 1989. The new mania is called "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles".

Some see it as a warped symptom of America's obsession with Japan; some revile it as mindless exploitation; others see it as good harmless fun.

Ninja Turtles, originally an obscure comic strip cult, crept up slowly on the country until last week. They were known only to children and long-suffering parents who, caught a glimpse of the cartoon show, or who forked out to buy their offspring Ninja Turtle action figures, video games, tapes, cereal, shampoo, bed linen and suchlike.

But last weekend saw the release of the movie, an event that elevated the comic strip "heroes of the half shell" to the rank of commercial juggernaut. The film, featuring humans dressed up in spandex, rubber and high-tech masks, earned \$25 million (£15.6 million) in the first two days, breaking the record for a non-summer opening.

To the delight of the

businessmen who have already made some \$350 million (£218.75 million) in turtle merchandise, the television and press have proclaimed the onset of "Turtle-madness", and the unlighted areas of trademark expressions such as "Cowabunga!" and Californian surf-talk such as, "Hey, let's party, dudes".

The turtle story, devised by two, then penniless artists in 1983, is a simple one. Four pet-shop tortoises (known generically as "turtles" in America) were dropped into a manhole in New York where they fell into a radioactive goo that caused them to grow to human size and acquire the power to speak. Masters of the Japanese martial arts, they spend their time eating pizza, cracking slightly off-colour jokes and battling villains, most of whom are unpleasant oriental stereotypes.

The film critics have found little to say in favour of the turtle blockbuster, which was partially filmed at Mr Jim Henson's Muppet studios in London. *The New York Times* criticized the film for its non-stop violence, a trait that has earned it a "parental guidance" rating.

The newspaper called the film "itself a mutant of sorts... a contentious, unsightly, hybrid of martial arts exploitation, film and live-action cartoon." Roger Ebert, a syndicated and influential critic,

damned it as "probably the best possible Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle movie". It's a very dark film and one wonders, after seeing it, if young Turtle fans are being denied the brightness and bounciness of an earlier generation of kiddie films.

Many parents too are disconcerted by the crudeness of the villains, who go under names such as Bebop the Powerhouse Punk Enforcer. Teachers and sociologists have been criticizing the "cultural message" of the turtles.

According to Mr Kevin Eastman and Mr Peter Laird, the young, now rich, creators, the creatures originated as a benign parody of self-righteous, traditional cartoon superheroes. "We were sitting around... we had watched a number of bad TV shows: *T.J. Hooker*, *The A-Team* and *Love Connection*. We got real punchy and for some reason I did a pencil sketch of a turtle with a mask. Then Pete did one, and another... Pete said, 'Why not call them Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?'"

The television cartoon show appears daily on 130 stations. Three videotapes rank in the top 10 children's category and Turtle figures were the third-biggest selling toy last Christmas. At the root of the success, says Mr Mark Freedman, the licensing agent, is their sense of humour. "They talk directly to the audience and they don't take themselves too seriously."

## Japan agrees satellite pact

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

JAPAN appears to be bowing to US demands for easier access to its markets in the face of threatened US sanctions against its imports.

Tokyo agreed in principle late on Tuesday to allow overseas companies to bid for business in commercial communications satellites with the Japanese Government and its public sector agencies.

Two weeks ago, both nations agreed on terms that will permit the United States to sell supercomputers to Japan's public sector.

The provisional satellite agreement, which is expected to be signed this month, follows increased pressure in the past weeks from the Bush Administration for Japan to open its markets more to foreign imports.

Congress has pledged to impose mandatory sanctions on Japanese goods entering the United States unless Tokyo meets a series of deadlines by mid-June on relaxing restrictions on US imports.

Talks are expected to begin next week in Tokyo on timber products, which are the final of three areas in dispute under the so-called Super 301 clause of American trade law.

The United States and Japan are currently holding talks in Washington on the main causes of Washington's annual \$50 billion (£31 billion) trade deficit with Japan. The imbalance has long been a thorn in their relations. The

latest round of trade talks is part of an unprecedented effort begun last summer to change some of the two nations' business methods and economic policies.

US companies have a strong technological lead over Japan in the commercial satellite industry and are anxious to gain access to a market worth billions of dollars a year.

The basic agreement aims to end US criticism that the Japanese Government has excluded foreign competition to nurture its own infant satellite industry.

Earlier this week, Japan offered the United States a range of significant concessions on trade issues.

These included easier rules for the establishment of large department stores in Japan, a proposal to spend more on public works and tougher penalties on Japanese firms found guilty of bid-rigging. The United States has been irritated that laws protecting small shop-owners in Japan have prevented it from moving a large toy company to Japan.

In a sign of increased efforts by Japan to persuade Washington it is trying to address US concerns, the concessions were delivered personally to US trade negotiators on Monday by two special envoys sent by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Toshiki Kaifu. The two envoys were scheduled to meet President Bush yesterday.

## El Salvador peace moves meet with initial success

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A DETERMINED effort to end a decade of civil war in El Salvador, launched yesterday under United Nations auspices, has met with initial success.

Both parties in the conflict — the El Salvador Government and the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation (FMLN) — have agreed to start direct talks in the first week of May.

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, said both sides had assured him of their "serious intention and good faith to achieve a negotiated settlement".

The initial objective of the talks, he said, was to seek agreement to halt the fighting and to end "acts that infringe the rights of the civil population". Such an agreement would be verified by UN observers.

Once this was achieved, the two parties could get on with democratization of the country and reuniting Salvadoran society. This will include reintegration of members of the liberation front in the civil, institutional and political life of the country.

The dialogue will continue between the two sides — though not in Geneva — under the guidance of Señor Pérez de

Cuéllar or Señor Alvaro de Soto, his personal representative in the peace process in Central America.

Señor de Soto said at a news conference that the place and the date of subsequent negotiations could not be disclosed. He said the fact that both sides had appealed to the Secretary-General to play a central role showed that they were serious about negotiations.

Once they have reached this stage, they can only succeed, he added. Following the press conference, leaders of both delegations conferred with Señor de Soto.

They agreed that after further consultations with him, and "a period of preparation and reflection", direct meetings between the two sides would start in the first week of May.

Señor Oscar Santamaría, El Salvador's Minister of Justice and spokesman for the country's Dialogue Commission, is leading the government delegation, while Commander Shafik Handal, a member of the liberation front's five-man General Commanders Group, is their chief negotiator.

Earlier, Commander Handal said he had reservations about the Government's

intentions. "The signals coming from the other side are not that promising," he told a news conference. But the involvement of the UN has lessened some of his misgivings.

Although all parties have agreed that the talks must be confidential, the front has reportedly proposed a plebiscite under UN supervision on constitutional reform, including more deputies to the National Assembly, at the same time as next year's elections for the assembly.

● MONTIELMAR: The five Central American presidents signed an accord on Tuesday in this Nicaraguan town calling for all Contra rebels to be disarmed by April 25, the day the US-backed Government of Señora Violeta Chamorro is due to take office in Nicaragua (Reuters reports).

The statement was an apparent success for the outgoing President Ortega, who had sought the support of his Central American colleagues for the Contras to be disarmed by the time his left-wing Sandinista Government leaves office.

The accord, signed after a two-day summit here, said the demobilization and disarming of the Contras must start immediately.

## Cocaine violence flares

Medellín — Gunmen, presumed to be working for the Medellín cocaine cartel, have unleashed a new wave of violence here, leaving 24 people dead and a prominent senator held hostage.

In the latest bloodshed, men armed with automatic weapons opened fire on customers and employees in a shop, killing six people and wounding nine, police said. (AFP)

## Balloon rules

Canberra — Australia has drawn up new safety rules, including better pilot training, for commercial ballooning in the wake of accidents which last year killed 17 people, mostly tourists. (Reuters)

## Airport closed

Port-au-Prince — The airport here has been closed for two days because a disgruntled soldier with a sub-machinegun has taken over an empty airliner of American Airlines. (AFP)

## Aids cases rise

Buenos Aires — Aids cases in southern Bolivia, Argentina and Uruguay increased by 217 per cent in 1989, the largest increase in the western hemisphere, the World Health Organization said. (AFP)

## Guerrillas held

Como — Two convicted Italian Red Brigades guerrillas on parole have been arrested near the Swiss border with an arsenal of weapons concealed in their car. (Reuters)

## Rebels kill four

Harare — Three young girls and a woman of 60 were killed by Mozambican rebels who raided a village in the Rushinga area of north-eastern Zimbabwe. (AFP)

## Tibet food aid

Peking — China's Air Force has dropped food and clothing to Tibetans trapped by blizzards which have killed 36 people. (Reuters)

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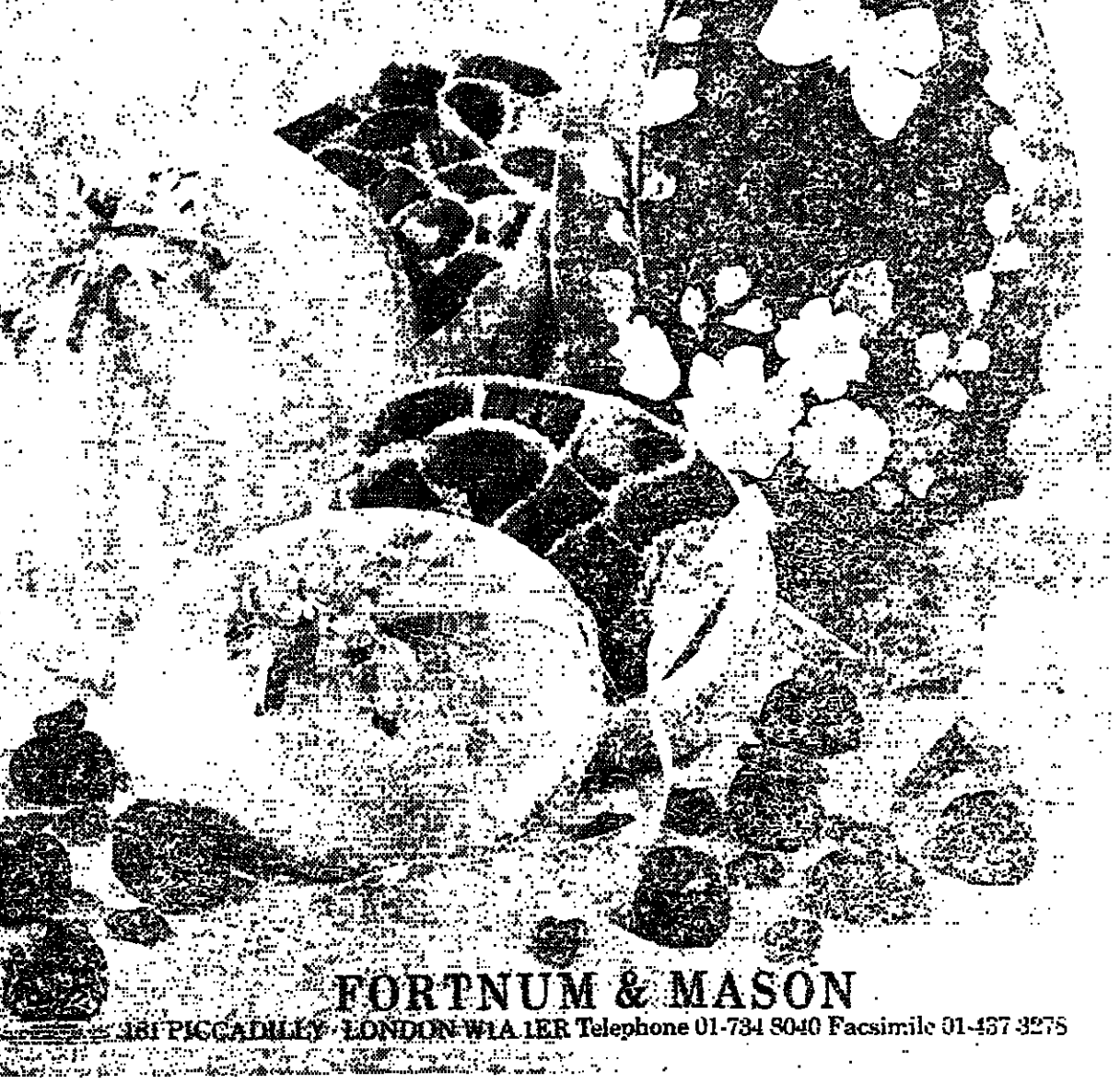
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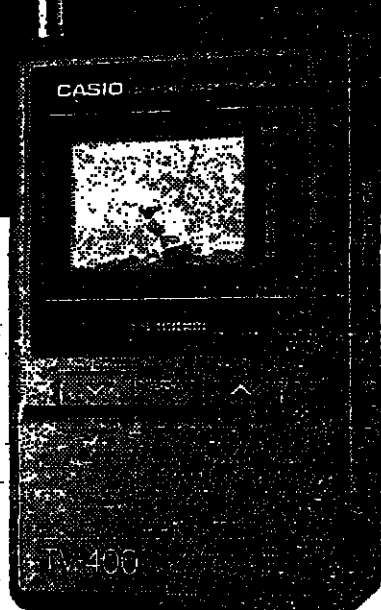
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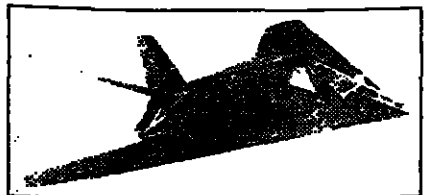
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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

There is a deal of embarrassment in the Pentagon over one of its more expensive toys. This week, with much pride and glossy photographs, the Defence Department unveiled its Stealth fighter, cousin of the larger and even more costly Stealth bomber. Naturally wishing Congress to vote enormous piles of money to buy more of these things, Pentagon officials were positively glowing about the capabilities of the fighter, especially its ability to drop



Off target: the new Stealth

small bombs with pinpoint accuracy. But the truth will always out. It now transpires that the fighter was secretly deployed during the invasion of Panama, with the task of making a very precise bombing raid on one of Noriega's barracks. The 2,000lb bomb was to be dropped exactly 165 yards away, so as to frighten the wits out of the enemy without blowing them all up. Alas, it went off hundreds of yards distant. Nothing wrong with the plane, the Pentagon now say in a frantic attempt to save face; it was all a bundle of misunderstood orders. One general ordered 165 yards, another thought it was 275 yards, the Air Force believed it was 55 yards, and the Army colonel who led the subsequent assault hadn't a clue what the Air Force were supposed to be doing.

A study of MPs' academic backgrounds reveals a curious fact; this Parliament appears to be the first in history in which products of state education outnumber those from public schools. Albert Armstrong of Hatfield, who has ploughed through every entry in *The Times Guide to the House of Commons*, reports that following the 1987 election there are now 272 MPs educated at local authority (including voluntary-aided) schools, while the independent sector (including the old direct-grant schools) can summon only 264. Leaving out the VA and direct-grant alumni, the state-educated lot have a majority of 20 over the traditional independent boarding and day schools.

Mind you, the old order has not disappeared entirely; Eton provided 46 current MPs, while comprehensives have supplied only eight. About 100 MPs were educated abroad or, for reasons best known to themselves, declined to disclose their education. What this great social shift means is not entirely clear, but if the behaviour in the Chamber is marginally less noisy and loutish than before, it has nothing to do with schooling and all to do with television.

My warmest congratulations to Simon Brocklebank-Fowler, son of the former MP for North-West Norfolk who sank without trace after deserting the Conservatives for the SDP, for choosing to enter politics at the deep end. Not only is he defending one of the two marginals in Lady Porter's tenuously-held empire of Westminster City Council, I particularly admire him for trading under his full, if somewhat cumbersome, name. In this he has chosen not to emulate that other product of Westminster School, the former Lord Stansgate, who has spent his political career progressively shortening his.

On the very day that the General Medical Council handed down its verdict on the Turkish kidney saga, how curious to receive a letter from Ankara bearing a 600 lira postage stamp with the exhortation "Organ bagisi ve organ sakli", which the Turkish embassy translated freely for me as "Carry a donor card for organ transplants." And there, in the picture, are a heart, an eye — and a pair of kidneys.

This column has received some rather breathless sales literature on the Complete Electronic Bible. This pocket-sized computer-type gadget has in its memory the entire Old and New Testaments in the New International Version, plus such indispensable features as a built-in electronic concordance, an electronic book mark ("for returning to favourite passages"), an eight-line display screen and a spellcheck facility which offers a list of alternative words. Future bibles accessories promised by the manufacturers include a daily devotional guide, and Hebrew and Greek language aids. Compared with traditional versions, £299.95 seems to me exceedingly steep. But of course, with the Oxford University Press edition, you don't get a built-in calculator, clock and an alarm to rouse you to matins.

A MAN from BBC television news rang last week to say that Glenda Jackson had been adopted as Labour candidate for Hampstead and Highgate. I asked why he was telling me this; he had not phoned when Lithuania declared its independence and I had had to find out the result of the Calcutta Cup match all by myself. The BBC newsman said it was because Ms Jackson is a celebrity seeking election to Parliament and, according to their records, I was the last celebrity to win a seat. "What is it like, can we send the cameras, will you talk about the sort of reception you got and Glenda Jackson is likely to receive if she gets in?" We conversed at 11.45; the item was carried on the News at 1.20; impressive high-tech even if limited in viewer appeal. As I explained to the interviewer,

Yesterday the Government published its proposals to grant the right of abode to selected Hong Kong citizens. We know already of opposition within sections of the Conservative party to any concessions on the right of entry into the United Kingdom. How the Government's proposals will fare, what the political consequences will be, is not yet clear. But we are likely to be reminded yet again of Richard Crossman's diary observation in 1965 that the issue of immigration can turn into "the hottest potato in politics".

It is worth emphasizing that Britain has generally functioned as a net exporter rather than a net importer of people, though some periods, for example the years immediately preceding the 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act, witnessed a reversal of this trend. Even so, there is also a long tradition of arrival into the country, and it is hard to find a period when there were no "strangers in the land". The history of immigration into Britain since 1945 shows a continuation of the process of entry evident earlier. Although the overwhelming public interest in recent years has focused on the arrival and settlement of Afro-Caribbean and Asian

Colin Holmes on the implications of the Hong Kong proposals

## Immigration: the issue that could take centre stage

groups, there is an important history of immigration from continental Europe and the Republic of Ireland. At the time of the last census the Irish remained the largest single immigrant minority. Even with the substantial increase of Afro-Caribbean and Asian groups since 1945, albeit from a low base, the majority of immigrants into Britain have been white.

How have these various groups been received? One of the powerful celebratory traditions of our history emphasizes Britain's role as a centre or haven of tolerance: a country in which decency triumphs over evil. The projection of this image is widespread and it has been taken up by many immigrants and refugees. The Chief Rabbi's maiden speech in the House of Lords in 1988 is a recent striking tes-

timony to the image of a country blessed with a tradition of tolerance, itself an offshoot of the wider tree of liberty.

This image of Britain as a haven which lodges in the psyche of many newcomers is often related to their horrendous experiences at home. In many societies, the persecution of minorities has been of a far different nature to the hostility which immigrants have suffered in Britain.

However, complacency is unwarranted; we need to recognize that on many occasions, tolerance has been glaringly absent. It might be lacking yet again if too many concessions are made over entry from Hong Kong. These tensions have mirrored the fears and anxieties which immigration has brought in its train, and which politicians have exploited

and reflected. In the early part of the 20th century the arrival of Jews from Russian Poland produced a campaign which resulted eventually in the 1905 Aliens Act, the first substantial control of alien immigration this century. In the 1960s, fears generated by the arrival of groups from the Caribbean and the Indian sub-continent led in 1962 to the first restrictions by the British government on immigration from the Commonwealth. Later controls, such as those imposed in 1965, 1968, 1971, and 1988, have closed the door even more firmly.

At both popular and official levels — and the two are not extrinsically linked — debates on immigration have at times been fierce and action has been decisive, but the impact of immigration has been wider than

such issues alone would suggest. Despite the fears and the tensions, there is a positive side to immigration.

Immigrants and refugees have made significant if often unrecognized contributions to British society. Irish labourers played a monumental part in laying the infrastructure of modern Britain. One can hardly overestimate the role of German Jews in the development of the City of London. The influence since 1945 of groups such as the Italians and the Hong Kong Chinese in the service sector cannot be denied.

The cultural contribution of newcomers is also significant. To take one example, the arrival of refugees from Nazi Germany in the 1930s immeasurably enriched British society. A *Times* leader following the death of

Nikolaus Festscher made the point with dramatic force. In short, immigration, has complex consequences, and it seldom occurs without conflict. However, it can confer advantages whether in the short or in the long term. So far, the increase in immigration of ethnic Chinese from Hong Kong since the end of the Second World War has generated relatively little opposition, even if it does not pay to be excessively bullish on this score. But there can be no doubt that with the approach of 1997, the issue of immigration from the colony is unlikely to go away.

One commentator offered advice recently on "Why we must not open the Hong Kong floodgates". In sharp contrast, another argued for "an acceptable safety net". Yesterday we had our first official indication of how the Government views its obligations towards the Hong Kongers. As a consequence we could encounter Richard Crossman's hot-potato, the issue of immigration, moving once more towards the centre of British politics.

Colin Holmes is Professor of History at the University of Sheffield and author of *John Bull's Island: Immigration and British Society 1871-1971* (Macmillan, 1988).

## Where liberty still lacks any stature

Next week the Foreign Secretary goes to Moscow; he has promised to raise with Mr Gorbachov the question of human rights in the Soviet Union. When he has finished discussing the weather, he might start on the topic of human rights with a rather spectacularly abominable case of abuse thereof.

First, let us concede that Mr Gorbachov is entirely sincere in his repeated assertions about freeing the people over whom he rules. Let us go on to suppose that sooner or later the perpetrators (or some of them) of the crimes against the rights of the Soviet people will be brought to justice. At the same time, let us recognize that however passionate for freedom he is, Gorbachov cannot himself deal with each detail in the field of human rights, or he can possibly know the circumstances of every instance of injustice. Here comes Mr Gorbachov's chance. Adopting his most conciliatory tone, he draws his host's attention to the case of Adolf Borisovich Gorvitz.

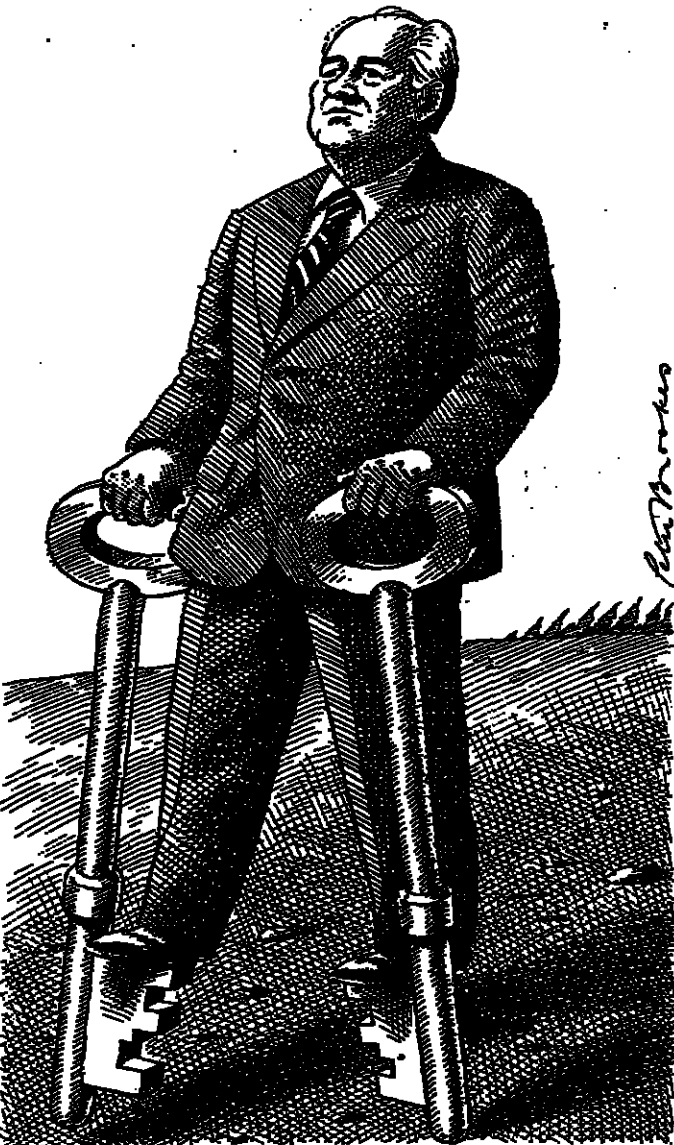
Mr Gorvitz, born in 1938, is a Jew, and in 1977 he applied for an exit visa. It was refused, with no reason given (he had never had anything to do with secret matters, nor was it suggested that he had). His mother was allowed out in 1979, and settled in Israel; thereafter he made many applications to join her, all of which were refused. She died in 1984. Early in 1981 he was arrested on false charges of taking bribes. The bribes were supposed to have been given by people trying to obtain accommodation in an apartment block, though at the time Mr Gorvitz was not in a position to allocate apartments to applicants.

The KGB officer who dealt with the case (we even know his name, Bendassov), took 20 months to prepare the charges, while Mr Gorvitz remained in prison. When he was finally brought to court, his trial was held in camera. He had been allowed a lawyer, but at the trial a lawyer unfamiliar with the case was substituted; in effect, therefore, he was unrepresented. Some of the hired witnesses had never so much as met Mr Gorvitz, and one of them did not even turn up at the trial. In the course of the proceedings, Mr Gorvitz was pressed to make accusations against innocent people, but he refused. His copy of the verdict and the trial transcript were taken from him, thus making virtually impossible any appeal or other legal process that might help him.

He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in the category called "strict regime". Those who believe that the Gulag no longer exists are now invited to amend their belief, in the light of a letter that he managed to get out to the West. This is it, in translation: it is dated February 3, 1990.

Here we are in the grip of the depths of winter. This morning the temperature was minus

Bernard Levin offers the Foreign Secretary a case of blatant abuse of human rights which he should raise in his talks with Gorbachov



56 degrees, and there was thick fog. For us prisoners in the Yakutsk camps, things are pretty bad. Here now the cold is terribly severe and one's body freezes to one's jacket. We condemn Communism because as a result of it everybody has suffered. May pluralism flourish in the world and may there be freedom and faith in God.

These few lines are for you, my friends. In December we suffered a great loss, with the passing of a great man who had a great and most sensitive heart — Andrei Sakharov. Here in these northern Soviet penal camps he had many sincere friends. Andrei was a MAN who had the courage to stand up to the Soviet totalitarian system.

With me there is no change so far. I am serving time in a "strict regime camp". In these Soviet northern camps they have created all the conditions so that a man can't last out. Here in Yakutsk inside the Arctic Circle in the region of permafrost, of permanent winter temperatures, with dread-

ful food and very hard labour, we have to make and carry heavy concrete blocks, each weighing 30 kgs, and there is no mechanized production. It is all hand work. I am not telling you this to arouse feelings of pity for myself and fellow prisoners. I simply want you, in a free country, to know what sufferings people in the USSR have to undergo for their beliefs and a desire to emigrate. I wish you for the New Year all of the very best. May God help us all!

Mr Gorvitz has no living relative other than an elderly uncle, a chronic invalid, also in Israel. I am sorry for the epistolary form of this column, but I must quote from another letter, received early last year by the prisoner's uncle.

It will very soon be seven years since my arrest. I was sentenced to 10 years for nothing. I had never committed any crime... my case is falsified from the beginning to the end, but nobody... reconsiders my case, all the time I receive

formal answers — refusals. It is difficult to prove one's innocence in prison. But nothing can be done, a fate is a fate and everybody has to drink his cup till he sees the bottom.

In June 1987 an amnesty took place in Russia, but the prosecutor has refused to free me because I am a "malicious disturber". But you know that I do not drink, I am not a gambler and I am not a criminal at all. Simply, somebody wants me to spend my days in prison.

As I said, I do not imagine that Mr Gorbachov has the leisure to investigate every crime against humanity taking place in his realm. And even I would not condemn him for putting aside such matters in view of the hideously complex range of fundamental problems his decaying country poses. Still, he now holds a position which gives him the power (he had the power before, of course, though not formally) to call for anything and anyone and to demand an immediate explanation.

It is, I suppose, just possible that he does not read *The Times*, but we can be sure that Ambassador Zamyatin does. I positively squirmed with pleasure the other day, at that wonderfully crawling "Good old Gorb" letter he thought it judicious to write, now that the increasingly free press back home has suggested that he is himself ripe for retribution.

Whatever else Mr Gorbachov is, or may turn out to be, he is not a man who deals in illusions. One glance at the Gorvitz file would be enough for him to see that the entire case was fraudulent. As I say, it is unlikely that he has the time to give it even that glance. But for a very long time now, he has been wisely surrounding himself with like-minded men, and one or two of them must surely be in charge of the monumental and virtually interminable task of sifting through the crimes committed against justice in the years of the greater terror and the less.

Besides, there is profit in it. If Gorbachov wants the rest of the world to think well of him and of his efforts to transform his country — and that he most certainly does want — the righting of a wrong as wicked as the one visited upon Mr Gorvitz, even if it is not accompanied by the punishment of those responsible, would serve his purpose and his image admirably.

Nikolai Bukharin and his associates were put to death by Stalin in 1938, though they were entirely innocent of the crimes they were accused of. Half a century later, almost to the day, their sentences were retrospectively annulled, their fate was denounced as the murder it was, and their names restored to their rightful place in Soviet history.

But they were dead, and could not rejoice in their posthumous rehabilitation; Adolf Gorvitz is alive, though barely, and could give thanks for his. Should he not, now, be given the opportunity to do so?

Ray Wyre calls for imaginative treatment of sex offenders

## Don't abuse the abusers

Ever since the 1971 prison riot at Kingston, Ontario, in which a group of sex offenders were tortured and two of them were killed, prison officers have been warning that it was only a matter of time before such an attack occurred in Britain.

The long-standing hostility to sex offenders had already intensified following the trial in 1966 of the Moors Murderers, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley. After their heinous crimes were detailed in the press, there was a tendency to put all sex offenders on a par with sadists who rape and kill children. The tabloid press has continually reinforced this false impression, and the licence to attack sex offenders within prisons has been increasing. The worst fears have been fulfilled with the vicious attacks at Strangeways.

At present, sex offenders constitute the majority of prisoners granted protection under rule 43, but there have been calls for this protection to be withdrawn. One Tory backbencher has even said that rule 43 should not apply to sex offenders, so that other prisoners can "get at them".

The truth is that many sex offenders — who may have been convicted merely for importuning in public lavatories or indecent exposure — are pathetic and in need of treatment. Instead of recognizing this, many of their fellow prisoners feel that attacks on them are justified; indeed, murderers, armed robbers and other prisoners can add to their own status and power in jail by becoming judge, jury and executioner.

Such kangaroo courts enable prisoners to be complacent about their offences. Sex offenders, even those awaiting trial, become convenient scapegoats.

Experience shows that it is often the inadequate sex offenders, convicted of relatively minor offences, who are the targets of attacks in prison. To give one example, Les, aged 63, was recently jailed for three months for an indecent act — far from rape — with his grand-daughter. In court, he said he loved her deeply and wrongly believed she had given consent. The child needs treatment and nothing can excuse his behaviour. Nevertheless, Les is a frail man with cancer, and this is his first time in prison. Yet he was attacked, and needed three days in hospital. Does society feel that this helped his grand-daughter? She already felt guilty for reporting him, and now has to live with the knowledge of the attack.

Such attacks, furthermore, put women and children at greater risk. Knowing what might be in store for him in prison, the sex offender might well go to any lengths, perhaps murder, to avoid arrest. And there is a grave risk that the beaten or tortured prisoner may inflict the same abuse on innocent victims after release. Indeed, I know of ex-prisoners who have killed.

Of course we must not be soft

on sex offenders; in many cases prison is necessary, but the infliction of violence by fellow prisoners is the last thing that will make a man loving, caring and responsible. To allow the impression that attacks on sex offenders are to be condoned, indeed are legitimate, will undermine attempts at rehabilitation and put the public further at risk.

Informing public opinion and changing the climate of understanding is essential. We have to get across the message that sex offenders need treatment both in and out of prison.

In view of the terrible events at Strangeways, the methods of containing prisoners under rule 43 must also be reassessed. The prison service faces difficulties whichever way it turns. If sex offenders are not segregated, they will be at considerable risk. If the prison service pretends that they have been convicted of other crimes, it colludes with their denials and excuses and no treatment can take place. Radio broadcasts make it very difficult to keep the nature of some offences secret, for prisoners listen to local stations avidly, gaining details of those appearing before the courts. It does not take much power of deduction to discover which new admission is a sex offender.

If the prison service were to segregate sex offenders without treating them, they would simply share their fantasies and contrive to justify their offences by blaming their victims.

One possible approach is to develop secure assessment and treatment centres for men convicted of sexual offences. This would allow them to be assessed, without having to disguise their offences, so that they could then be given appropriate treatment. In some circumstances, following assessment, an offender would be dealt with by the probation service — group therapy once a week might be adequate — while others might be dealt with in institutions such as the Gracewell Clinic, Birmingham, which runs residential treatment programmes for child sex abusers and their families.

Other men would have to remain locked up, but they might be kept in a prison dealing specifically with sex offenders. This is increasingly feasible in a society in which sexual aggression is increasing.

The existing system of non-intervention clearly does not work. For too long initiatives have been avoided because we cannot be sure that they will be effective. But until we try them we shall never know. A few new approaches to treatment have been tried, and the evidence is that they have worked. But they need to be developed and supported.

Ray Wyre is director of the Gracewell Clinic and is co-author of *Women, Men and Rape*, published this week by Hodder and Stoughton, £4.99.

## Enter member from stage, left

right lobby was when I found the instantly recognizable figure of Cyril Smith and followed in his slipstream. A new Labour member will have all sorts of colleagues delegated to be of assistance.

But the BBC newsman had a good point: the great British public is deeply suspicious of celebrities who wish to go straight. Even the great East Anglian Liberal public in the 1970s was apprehensive. When I was shortlisted for the Isle of Ely by-election in 1973, there were only nine members of the association to decide between me and the other applicant. Embarrassed by this small number, the se-

retary was deputed to swell the crowd from an adjacent old people's home... who voted me in by 12 votes to nine.

Old people are in favour of faces they recognize from tele-

vision. Political activists, on the other hand, feel that you cannot do better than plump for a university lecturer.

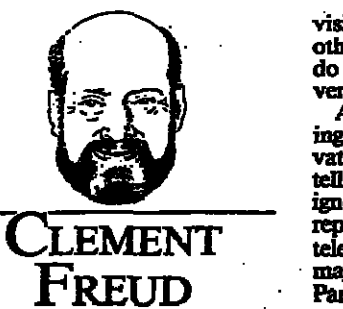
At the general election following my victory, both Conservative and Labour went around telling my constituents that it was ignominious for them to be represented by "someone from television". I quintupled my majority. For the next three Parliaments, however, I remained, to my political opponents, the MP who used to be on TV, did adverts, nudge-nudge, was a director of the Playboy Club, ho ho ho.

So what, said I; my Labour Party opponent is a prison officer.

As to physically taking her seat, she may be interested in what happened to the last celebrity to

make it to Westminster. According to the papers of the day, following Mr Freud's arrival at the Bar of the Chamber, there were ribald (some broadsheets called it humorous) references to the fact that the new MP had been a cook and appeared on a TV commercial. One particularly flat-bellied Midlands member punctuated my progress towards the mace with fierce barking.

As Glenda Jackson is not averse to stripping in the cause of cinematic art, I wonder whether some Conservative member might mark the occasion by taking off his or her clothes; now that the proceedings are televised, a parliamentary greaser is one of the few happenings we have not yet witnessed. Hearing a passionate female voice espousing support for the less fortunate people of this country will be welcome also.



CLEMENT FREUD





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## A STOPGAP BILL

The Nationalities Bill presented to Parliament yesterday makes no claim to be a solution to the predicament of Hong Kong's people as they face being handed over to mainland Chinese rule in 1997. The Bill empowers the Home Secretary to restore the full British passports, to which they were all once entitled, to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of household deemed "essential to Hong Kong's stability".

The purpose is blatantly pragmatic, to keep the colony's wheels turning in the twilight of British rule, by giving a bolt-hole insurance policy to important people who would otherwise emigrate, and thus induce them to stay. The criterion for eligibility that accompanies the Bill is unequivocal: the numbers of passports to be allocated to occupational groups will be determined principally by "propensity to emigrate". Eligibility is based on a points system heavily weighted in favour of the most useful (and mobile) age group of those in their thirties.

The moral obligation of post-imperialism is thus reduced to crude opportunism. Yet some sympathy with the Government's predicament over Hong Kong is in order and the Bill does represent an important advance. By removing the requirement to "earn" a passport by taking up residence in this country, it acknowledges the longstanding demand of Hong Kong people for "passports to stay in Hong Kong". The Bill itself is essential, since the mere promise of passports *in extremis* would not have sufficed to stem the emigration. One reason is that the Labour Party refuses to accept any obligation to restore full citizenship to Hong Kong's British subjects.

The Government has been right to vest responsibility for what are bound to be delicate decisions over eligibility in the Governor of Hong Kong. This commits the Home Secretary to accept the Governor's recommendations, subject only to a reserve power to reject them on grounds of bad character.

On the other hand, the Bill makes these eligibility decisions inordinately difficult by setting the total number of passports so low. The best independent estimates of the numbers likely to emigrate between now and 1997, unless they have the security of British or other foreign passports, suggest that six times the present number would be needed to halt an

exodus already under way. The danger, as the Governor of Hong Kong has stated, is that the scheme will prove too modest to generate the critical minimum of confidence.

The issue of numbers has apparently been decided not on advice from the colony but from Government whips in the House of Commons. They in turn have been vulnerable to an attempt to stir latent anti-immigration sentiment by Mr Norman Tebbit and a group of Tory rebels. Their campaign ignores the reality of Hong Kong's plight as comprehensively as it rejects Britain's indubitable obligations to the colony. Mr Tebbit appeals to the Tory manifesto's opposition to mass immigration.

The reality is that, short of a genocidal cataclysm, few people in Hong Kong would wish to come to this country. If such a cataclysm did occur, Britain would be obliged to honour its commitment to the British passport holders — indeed also to those without them, since Britain would, under international refugee protocols, be the country of refuge of first resort.

The rebels hope, possibly with mischievous Labour support, to derail or delay the passage of the Bill through a filibuster aimed at keeping the issue on the front burner into the summer recess and the Conservative Party conference. As the remaining grains of sand run through Hong Kong's hourglass, these rebels will have helped to bring about precisely the collapse of confidence which would make real the prospect of mass immigration they are now exploiting.

For once, the Foreign Office has held its ground against China's vehement objections to the passport scheme, and firmness has paid off. Peking, which in January threatened to debar British passport-holders from all public office and deprive them of British consular protection, agreed a month later that they could be members of Hong Kong's post-1997 Legislative Council. That should encourage the Government to press ahead, keeping options open should the scheme need extension. Amid all the brouhaha about parliamentary tactics, Britain's obligation in this matter should not be forgotten. It is, as the Government used to say, the long-term welfare of Hong Kong's citizens.

## FOR LOVE OR MONEY

The kidneys-for-sale case at the General Medical Council may have ended yesterday, but it did so without resolving the ethical question on which it turned. Once it had decided the facts, the GMC's professional conduct committee had only to apply what is clearly a general consensus among doctors in Britain: that the idea of selling human organs for transplantation is horrific. One leading kidney specialist was ordered to be struck off the medical register — the profession's ultimate censure — and two others, also found guilty of serious misconduct, were placed under formal restriction on their future practice.

The verdict was motivated by the same distaste as persuaded Parliament last year to pass the Human Organ Transplants Act, outlawing the sale of human organs. Parliament was apparently unmoved by the evidence of what is now a booming international trade in organs. The Act may ensure that London does not become the centre of this trade, but it will make little difference to its growth in the rest of the world. There is a demand and a supply; market price will bring them into equilibrium.

Is Britain's aversion to the trade mere squeamishness, a refusal to face up to the fast-changing economics of modern health care? Or are Parliament and the GMC upholding a sound moral principle? Both the Act and the medical code of ethics permit one human being to donate a kidney or similar organ to another, for nothing, if they are related by blood or marriage. Most people would regard the donation of a kidney in such circumstances as noble. Indeed the more people who are encouraged to consent to organ donation after their own death, the better. In America, blood can be sold for profit — though blood is replaceable, whereas kidney removal is technically self-mutilation.

It is thus praiseworthy for a loving father to donate his kidney to his daughter. But suppose she has some other medical condition, to

which a kidney transplant is not relevant. What is morally wrong in his selling to a third party the kidney he would willingly have donated to her, in order to raise money to pay for her medical treatment for this other condition?

This argument is persuasive but stands at the top of a slippery slope. The hard case of the hypothetical father and daughter (which is not so far from the evidence considered by the GMC) obviously deserves sympathy rather than outrage. But hard cases make bad law. To make the principle that organ transfers should be motivated by family affection and charity but not by profit dispensable in special circumstances would plainly undermine it altogether. It would soon justify the sale of organs for a good cause whatever the destination of the sale price: a peasant to stop his family starving, a businessman to stop his factory closing, even a student to pay for his education. Ultimately, the concept of motive would be abandoned and self-mutilation (possibly not wholly voluntary self-mutilation) would become a commonplace last resort.

In permitting organ transfer where no money changes hands, the new Act and the medical consensus have moved away from a morally absolutist high ground; that there are some things concerning their own body to which people may never morally or lawfully consent. That is a situational morality to which most would now subscribe. But a line does need to be drawn between different sorts of motive, and the authorities appear to have drawn it correctly: there are some motives for self-mutilation which ought to be ruled out, others which are legitimate. Mutilation for profit falls into the former category, for charity into the latter. It may seem a sentimental distinction in this no-nonsense age. But a sophisticated society is one which knows how to draw lines of subtle moral distinction. Here is one such line.

## KING BAUDOUIN'S DAY OFF

The abdication early yesterday of the Belgian monarch, Baudouin I, might have been an act of self-sacrifice by a king who had chosen to place his conscience before his regal obligations. His expected restoration a day later by parliamentary fiat is, however, unprecedented. It will leave behind a constitutional shambles: rarely good for monarchies.

To renounce a throne in favour of an heir has often proved a prudent policy for constitutional monarchs in an age of popular sovereignty. But a throne which commands widespread national — and international — respect is not an office like any other, to be resigned and then resumed at the whim of the other organs of the constitution. Modern monarchy depends on gently bending to the winds of democracy, not suddenly cracking before them. The "dignified" parts of the constitution cannot retain that dignity if their actual subordination to the "efficient" parts is so destructively demonstrated.

To the question of whether a similar crisis could arise in Britain, more than one answer is possible. The unwritten constitution is unclear on the ultimate source of royal authority. There is no true parallel with the Counsellors of State who perform the duties of the sovereign while she is abroad.

The occasion for the Belgian conflict was an abortion Bill: an issue which engaged the King's moral and religious convictions to the maximum extent. In Britain, the monarch is also the supreme governor of the Church of England. The middle way is the essence of Anglicanism and, for this reason alone, a British monarch is unlikely to find him or herself forced to choose between obedience to

the canons of the established church and the constitutional obligation to assent to a Bill passed by Parliament.

Nevertheless, it is certainly conceivable that a monarch of passionately held principles — such as the Prince of Wales has, to his credit, shown himself likely to be — might find himself expected to assent to a Bill against which his conscience rebelled. In such a case, a temporary regency like that of George III's reign might be a theoretical possibility.

However, that regency was not a constitutional fiction, but was necessitated by the incapacity of the King: only thus was it a tolerable expedient. In the case of the abdication of Edward VIII, it never arose. His choice lay between conformity to convention and loss of the throne.

By a nice paradox, the Belgian monarchy was the product of 1830, a year of revolutions. In Britain, the monarch's constitutional pedigree is somewhat different. The "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 preceded the triumph of the principle of popular sovereignty, and the British monarchy thus survived into modern times with its prerogatives substantially intact, even if dormant.

Despite the incessant invasion of royal privacy, the British still shroud their monarchs with a veil of sacred mythology. There is about them still a faint echo of their ancestors, *les rois thaumaturges* with their healing touch. Constitutional devices of the Belgian variety are incompatible with an institution of this kind. The British would sooner declare a republic than subject their monarchy to such an ignominious political device.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Changes to the charge that everyone loves to hate

From Mr David Kemp, QC  
Sir, Your leading article on March 29 postulated a possible Government retreat back to the old rating system. May I suggest a modification of that system?

The rate payable on a dwelling house should comprise two components. The first would be a rate calculated, as now, on its rateable value. The second would be a standard charge, fixed from time to time by central government, in respect of every person resident in the house. It should be a modest amount, say £100. The total sum would constitute the rate payable in respect of the dwelling house and recoverable in the same way as under the old rating system.

The advantages would lie in the ease of collecting and recovering the rate, and in the fact that, while the rateable value component would broadly reflect the payer's ability to pay, the standard charge component would broadly reflect the use made by the household of services provided by the rates.

The payer's reaction to the amount of the rateable value component, determined by the local authority, should provide a sanction against excessive expenditure by the local authority. Yours faithfully, DAVID KEMP, 4 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, WCI.

From Mr Henry Law  
Sir, As you pointed out in your leading article, a brave and wise government would reinstate the rating system in 1991. Sooner or later, this must happen, because every attempt to modify the community charge will create fresh poverty traps. The system would then be continually under revision as anomalous cases came to light and the legislation amended to take account of them, spawning, in turn, new anomalies.

Reinstatement of the former rating system should, however, be regarded only as a stop-gap measure. It was, indeed, a root tax, and had the grave disadvantage that improvements were penalised: in the case of domestic property, higher rates would be payable on a house with central heating and a garage than on a property which was identical apart from possessing these amenities, whilst the owner of a derelict shell would be exempt from payment altogether. The uniform business rate still suffers from the same disadvantage, since fixed equipment and plant is included in the valuation.

The rating of buildings is, in fact, an unnecessary complexity, since sufficient revenue can be raised by basing the valuation on the land alone. Under this arrangement, known as site value rating, the majority of the present ratepayers would pay less because "vacant sites" and under-developed and agricultural land, not at present included in the rating base, would be brought into the system. Every resident and every activity uses or occupies land, either directly or indirectly, and a rate based on the value of used or occupied land would be paid, directly or indirectly, by every citizen.

Site value rating is now the only practicable alternative to the community charge and the unified business rate, and the sooner that all of the main political parties realise this, the better. Legislators need look no further than the London Rating (Site Values) Bill 1939, which spelled out the working details for implementing a system of site value rating. Only minor amendments would be required to adapt it to present day conditions.

Yours, HENRY LAW, 19 Queen's Gardens, Brighton, Sussex.

From Mr Neville H. Lee  
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr John Trenchard (March 30), has contrived a view that will add to existing confusion and cause unwarranted alarm to landlords and tenants. Landlords have always paid general rates on vacant furnished property available for letting. Since April 1 they have been liable to the standard charge while premises are empty.

Landlords seeking rents above market levels will suffer void periods and will pay the standard charge. The cost in lost rent alone for a void of one week is equivalent to an annual rent reduction of 1.9 per cent; a void of one month is equal to a reduction of 8.3 per cent.

Under the community charge, tenants will, with certain exceptions, pay the personal charge, subject to relief for those on low incomes. The standard charge will only be collected from tenants who occupy a rented property as a second home. No abusive calculations are necessary since, whatever view is taken on community charge legislation as a whole, the responsibility for payment of the different types of charge and the role and liabilities of letting agents are clearly defined.

Tenancies of property owned by companies financed by business expansion schemes are assured tenancies and offer tenants long-term security of tenure. Assured shorthold tenancies, a different animal altogether, are used where

occupation of an investment property or second home is agreed for specific periods.

Yours etc, NEVILLE H. LEE (Council member), Association of Residential Letting Agents, 18-21 Jermyn Street, SW1.

From Mr Oliver Chapple  
Sir, An administratively simple and perhaps less regressive alternative to the community charge would be to tax each household according to the number (and perhaps size) of vehicles registered at the address.

The Department of Transport already has this data computerised, although there would need to be compulsory registration of those people to whom company cars are assigned. Insurance companies, who increasingly rely on postal codes to calculate premiums and insist on correct up-to-date information for policies to remain valid, provide a further obstacle to people misstating where vehicles are kept.

I would guess that most of those who genuinely are having difficulty in paying the community charge do not own vehicles and would thus be exempted. Their contribution to the community coffers would be through their payment of fares on public transport. Yours faithfully, OLIVER CHAPPLE, Oxendale Hall Farm, Osbaldeston, Blackburn, Lancashire.

### Quelling violence in the streets

From Mr C. A. Rootes  
Sir, Your leading article (April 2) on Saturday's riot in central London asserts that "political disorder is not justified in a democracy" and that "no... tolerance extends to those who perpetrate mayhem and injury in the cause of defying democratic laws".

These remarks clearly presuppose that Britain is a democracy and that the poll tax is a "democratic law". The truth is that Britain is probably the least democratic state in Western Europe and that the poll tax is but the latest in a series of radical measures enacted by a Government which has never been able to command the votes of a majority of the electorate.

The violence perpetrated on Saturday was inexcusable because of its inhumanity, but it was probably inevitable precisely because of this lack of a genuine democracy. The poll tax is just one of a series of measures that are creating in this country an underclass, a section of the population for whom there is no hope of anything beyond grinding poverty and the daily struggle to make ends meet. Yours faithfully, C. A. ROOTES, 6 Summer Hill, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

From Mr Robin M. Bevan  
Sir, On the evening of Saturday, March 31, I was variously described by newscasters, senior politicians and police officers as a "mindless hooligan", "a stone and bottle throwing youth", "a Marxist agitator" or "a member of either the SWP, Militant, or an anarchist group".

Not one of these descriptions would fit either myself or the majority of people present. No audible request was given at any time by police or stewards to "move on", which given the congestion would have been extremely difficult anyway.

At no time in the afternoon, after the first charge by the police, could I perceive anything approximating to a sensible strategy for

dealing with the situation. Repeated rushes by the riot police and officers on horseback seemed only to achieve an increase in the injuries amongst both civilians and police and greater hostility from the demonstrators.

I do not defend the activities of all the protesters, but I remain stunned by the appalling behaviour of certain police officers, the total mismanagement of the situation by the police strategists, and the complete failure of the media to reflect this sad aspect of the day. Yours, ROBIN M. BEVAN, 61 Oakleigh Crescent, N20.

From Sir Alfred Sherman  
Sir, Alan Ryan's call for civil disobedience over the community charge ("The right to disobey", April 3) is the height of irresponsibility. The right to disobey unjust laws can be considered only in *extremis* — e.g., the Nuremberg laws. The community charge is merely a way of redistributing the total burden of domestic taxation to finance local government.

The alternative to civic obedience is anarchy, which leads to despotism. If I may choose laws to break, so may everyone else. All men were created equal; hooligans would be equally entitled to exercise their judgement to steal, rape, attack the police, assault coloured people. Alan Ryan's intellectual hooliganism is a threat to our ordered existence, launched from the safety of Princeton.

Yours sincerely, ALFRED SHERMAN, 10 Gerald Road, SW1.

From Mr K. L. Samant  
Sir, I cannot agree with Alan Ryan's analogy of Gandhi and his civil disobedience movement in India. Gandhi was fighting an alien power. The hooligans who participated in Saturday's riot are trying to overthrow the democratically elected Government of their own country.

Yours faithfully, K. L. SAMANT, 30 Regency Lodge, Adelaide Road, NW3.

of parole that neither I nor any of us would have countenanced.

The production of plays stopped abruptly when a very large number of French officers arrived, moved from camps further east. They were crowded into every available space including the theatre.

Not so long afterwards, the Americans took Colditz and we were free. I did not see my sewing machine again. I look forward to visiting Colditz as a tourist and doing so.

Yours faithfully, J. R. E. HAMILTON-BAILLIE, Rectory House, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

### Sewing in Colditz

From Brigadier J. R. E. Hamilton-Baillie

Sir, As a former inmate, I was interested in your report (March 30) about Colditz Castle opening to tourists. The picture of the sewing machine was of particular interest as I made it, during the last months of the war, not to make escape clothes but to make costumes for our plays, especially female ones for myself.

I did so in the little workshop by the stage, where we made scenery and props using tools returned to us on parole after confiscation. To say that it was for use in escape preparations is to imply a breach

of parole that neither I nor any of us would have countenanced.

The production of plays stopped abruptly when a very large number of French officers arrived, moved from camps further east. They were crowded into every available space including the theatre.

Not so long afterwards, the Americans took Colditz and we were free. I did not see my sewing machine again. I look forward to visiting Colditz as a tourist and doing so.

Yours faithfully, J. R. E. HAMILTON-BAILLIE, Rectory House, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

Options for Germany  
From Mr John Leech  
Sir, Your first leader of March 31, "Germany disposes", begins by observing that "the past two days may have marked a turning point in Anglo-German relations". It then proceeds to jar about every nearly that 40 years of Königswinter conferences have served to heal.

and an initially toothless CSCE will offer no substitute.

Chancellor Kohl's solution is to weld Germany irrevocably into the only framework which offers stability in the foreseeable future, the European Community. To make doubly sure, as did Schuman before him, he wants its bonds so tight that no conceivable successor could untie them.

Your leader ignores both that option and his intention: the Prime Minister, whose stance you applaud, appears firmly to reject them — for reasons which regrettably bear more resemblance to the nationalism of which you are afraid than to the kind of leadership of which she is capable.

If "Germany disposes", it is not clear what your distinguished paper, or for that matter the Government, proposes. Yours faithfully, J. LEECH, 8 Chester Square Mews, SW1.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

### Use of dye for spinal scans

From Dr J. L. G. Thomson  
Sir, Clamour against Glaxo Laboratories, manufacturers of Myodil — the dye which, until it was withdrawn in 1987, was used for injecting patients requiring back scans — is reaching near hysterical levels.

The judge in the test case (report, March 13) is quoted as saying that alleged Myodil victims form "a potentially enormous group" and the firm of solicitors dealing with the claims as saying that these claims could exceed £150 million. Perhaps it is time that some of Myodil's lesser-known advantages were recalled.

Myodil was introduced into this country in the early 1940s and hailed as a significant advance over previous substances, all of which had produced unacceptable toxic side effects. Surgery could not even be considered until accurate localisation of a spinal lesion had been obtained, or alternative treatment prescribed if surgery were thus contra-indicated.

Such an investigation is carried out in an X-ray department on a tilting table, and the procedure is known as myelography. In this country, until the mid and late 70s, Myodil was the contrast medium used for myelography, in the absence of any alternative or better agent. Many thousands of such investigations were carried out and as a result of the accuracy of this diagnosis hundreds were relieved of such symptoms as, sciatica, brachialgia, paraplegia, quadriplegia, etc. Many more undoubtedly owe their lives to its use.

It was an unexpected tragedy that a relatively few proved to be sensitive to Myodil, and it is right and proper that these victims should claim compensation. However, it may not be easy to distinguish those who, with present-day symptoms, claim that these result from the use of Myodil more than a decade ago.

Doubtless, there will be cases where the cause relationship to Myodil is undisputed. For some others, the recently developed technology of magnetic resonance imaging should be used to assess the presence or absence of adhesions. This entails no injection of any sort, nor does it involve the use of an X-ray beam. It could help in making sure that any award gained in the courts goes to the right people. Yours etc, J. L. G. THOMSON, Bristol Magnetic Resonance Imaging Centre, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, Avon, April 2.

### Airwaves dispute

From the *Chargé d'Affaires* of Cuba

Sir, Further to your editorial, "When pigs have wings" (March 30), I would like to clarify that Voice of America and BBC World Service broadcasts are not jammed at all in Cuba. Those services, like dozens of others from many neighbouring countries and Europe, can be heard clearly in every Cuban home having a common radio receiver.

The Cuban Government has consistently stated for years its willingness to reach an agreement with the US Government regarding broadcasts, under international law and regulations of both countries, including exchange of programmes and other information services. But Cuba cannot accept impositions violating its sovereignty, such as those committed by the offensively-named Radio and TV Martí. José Martí was an anti-imperialist Cuban patriot.

Yours faithfully, MIGUEL MARTINEZ, Cuban Embassy, 167 High Holborn, WCI.

### Sleeping easy

From Miss Esme Reader

Sir, "And so to bed" (with a duvet — letters, March 17, 20, 24, 26, 27): Up and walked to Greenwich...

Up and walked to Greenwich... and I forced to go to the office on foot through all the rain, was almost wet to the skin, and spoiled my silk breeches almost. Rained all the afternoon and evening... and I was forced to get a bed at Capt. Cokes where I find Sir W. Doily and he and Eveling at supper and I with them full of discourse of the neglect of our masters... about all businesses and especially that of money... Full of these melancholy thoughts to bed — where though I lay the safest I ever did in my life, with a down bed (after the Danish manner, upon me), yet I slept very ill, chiefly through the thoughts of my Lord Sandwiches concernment in all this ill-success at sea. (Samuel Pepys, September 9, 1665).

Yours faithfully, ESME READER, 31 Kent Gardens, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex.

### Weather prayer

From Mr Paul Ketteridge

Sir, When I was in the Caribbean we used to pray each Sunday: "Give us rain in due season and preserve us from the ravages of hurricanes and the devastation of earthquakes".

With our reservoirs low, trees and chimneys felled by the wind and now the floor shaking beneath our feet, should this prayer not be introduced into English Sunday services?

Yours sincerely, PAUL KETTERIDGE, Bankside Cottage, Church Street, North Marston, Buckingham, April 3.



# COURT AND SOCIAL

...on  
...between  
...and  
...at St.  
...clear.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; PERSONAL

1. Your Lord and Teacher have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. John 13:14

## BIRTHS

**ASHER** - On April 1st, to Anne (nee Gaby) and Stephen, a son, Christopher Guy, a brother for Gemma and Sarah.

**ASSAL** - On Monday April 2nd, to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a son, Sarah (nee Firth) and John, a brother for Charlotte.

**BRADSHAW** - On March 27th, to Vicky and David, a daughter, Katherine Anne (nee), a sister for Matthew, Emma, and John, a brother for Charlotte.

**BROWN** - On April 3rd, to Jeff and Beverly, a daughter, Anna Felicity, a sister for Nicola.

**BRYAN** - On April 4th, to the (nee) and Paul, a daughter, Megan Polly.

**BYRNE** - On April 2nd, to Andrea Carina (nee) and Rony, a son, Edward Michael, a brother for Jessica.

**CAPPEL** - On April 3rd, to Sarah (nee) and William, a son, William, a brother for William.

**CHAMBERS** - On March 27th, to David and Susan, a son, Michael, a brother for Richard.

**CHIFFIN** - On April 2nd, to Christine (nee) and Ian, a son, Ian, a brother for Ian.

**DE FERRANTI** - On April 3rd, to Christine and Adrian, a son, Adrian, a brother for Adrian.

**DEWEY** - On Tuesday April 3rd, to Simon and Simon, a son, Simon, a brother for Simon.

**EVANS** - On April 4th, to the (nee) and Anne, a son, a brother for Anne.

**GALE** - On March 16th, to Eleanor (nee) and Andrew, a son, a brother for Eleanor.

**JOHNS** - On April 4th, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**KERRISAW** - On April 2nd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**MARSH** - On April 3rd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**MARTLAND** - On April 3rd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**MCCORMICK** - On April 3rd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**MILLER** - On April 3rd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**MORRIS** - On April 3rd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**MURPHY** - On April 3rd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**NATHAN** - On April 3rd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

**BROUGHTON** - On April 2nd, to the (nee) and John, a son, a brother for John.

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**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**JOHN OXLEY'S** Funeral is today Thursday April 5th at 11.30 am at St. James' Park Station.

**IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE**

**BELL** - On April 30th, 1911, suddenly at his home, 11, 11th Avenue, London.

**FOR SALE**

**ABSOLUTELY ALL PHANTOM** ASPECTS LES MIS WIMBLEDON 90

**ALL TICKETS**

**DATELINE GOLD**

**ALL TICKETS**

**WIMBLEDON '90**

**ASPECTS PHANTOM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALL TICKETS**

**WIMBLEDON '90**

**ASPECTS PHANTOM**

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## APRIL 5 ON THIS DAY 1929

type with an infant on her lap - both seated on the step which divides the first from the ground floor story, will not be completed for a month or so.

The other figures are now uncovered and in full view.

Speaking generally, the enterprise can be called a conspicuous success. In the first place the figures - 9ft 6in long by 3ft 6in deep, the highest relief being about 9in - make decorative patterns exactly where they are wanted on a building which relies otherwise for ornament entirely upon the facade. The figures, all in an outward-facing pose, or perhaps swimming - attitude, two male and the rest female, were all carved directly, and without "pointing" from the model, in the Portland stone which faces the building. Individually the figures vary a good deal in success. The two by Mr. Eric Gill on the eastern faces of the transverse arms, in full view from Tothill-street, are by far the best; in exactly the right quality of style, as decided by shadow, and well related to the building by more or less horizontal folds of drapery, which serves the further purpose of backgrounding the figures. Mr. Gill's third figure, a man, is on the northern face of the head of the cross, and is obscured from the ground by other buildings.

Each of the other figures is good in some respects, but leaves something to be desired in others. Mr. Wynn's, also a man, on the southern face of the head of the cross, is best related to the building, but not very clear in design; Mr. Gerard's - on the west face of the south transverse arm - is in a good style of relief, perpendicular to the wall, but is marred in composition and checked in movement by the disposition of an arm across the body; the work of Mr. Robinson - on the south face of the shaft - is very well designed, but lacks emphasis upon the planes of the figure; and that by Mr. Moore - on the north face of the shaft - though well modelled, is too bulky and suffers from the lack of drapery to connect it with the lines of the building. But the idea of leaving the sculptors free to work in their accustomed "idioms" from the classical, as represented by Mr. Wynn, to the "post-Rodinism" of Mr. Moore - was undoubtedly a good one, and the scale of the figures is exactly right for the building.

## SCULPTURE FOR THE "UNDERGROUND"

With characteristic enterprise and discrimination, the Underground Railways have the architects Messrs. Adams, Hovenden and Parsons - of their own headquarters at St. James's Park Station to arrange one of the most important applications of sculpture to architecture of recent years. The building, which is rapidly nearing completion, is planned as a Latin cross - with the shaft pointing east to Tothill-street - upon a triangular base of two storeys, the arms being set back in stages from 80 feet above the ground to a central tower, which will rise to a total height of 180 feet.

It was decided that all decoration should be concentrated in sculpture, with the general idea of employing the full range of contemporary younger talent. Seven sculptors were chosen: Mr. Jacob Epstein (who was commissioned to execute figures representing "Day" and "Night" on the two main faces of the base) and Mr. Eric Gill, Mr. Allan Wynn, Mr. A.H. Gardner, Mr. Eric Amis, Mr. F. Robinson, and Mr. Henry Moore, who were entrusted with figures symbolizing the "Winds" - eight in all - high up on the faces of the arms of the cross. As a very experienced craftsman Mr. Gill was made leader of the team for the "W



Vera Lustig talks to playwright Nick Dear about the problems and rewards involved in adapting the work of other authors

## Faithful, not slavish

There is a glint of menace and a whisper of erotic promise to "I'll meet by moonlight, proud Titania" — in the original, that is. Translated word-for-word into Catalan, it comes out blunt, unsexy and deflating. I discovered this when I saw a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Barcelona in 1977. That was less than 18 months after Franco's death, so the production was an affirmation of long-suppressed Catalan identity and culture.

As the regional languages of Spain were proscribed, there was no great flowering of writing during Franco's regime. Oddly, in order to bring foreign plays to life, a country needs a pool of indigenous playwrights to adapt them.

That pool needs to be fairly large. As the playwright Nick Dear points out: "I'm often asked to do adaptations, but I refuse if I don't feel a special sympathy with the play." Dear's three stage adaptations to date are of Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (to be seen on the National's Olivier stage next year), his highly successful adaptation of Ostrovsky's *A Family Affair*, staged by Cheek by Jowl in 1988, and now Tirso de Molina's 17th-century drama, *El burlador de Sevilla*, under the title *The Last Days of Don Juan*.

"I'm a playwright who also happens to do adaptations, not an adaptor," Dear insists. "I do adaptations when I want to learn something — broad principles of playwriting rather than how to write a line. With *A Family Affair* I

was keen to try drawing-room comedy, and with the Tirso I wanted to learn how to whack the action along."

Other writers who also do adaptations include Christopher Hampton, Tom Stoppard, Michael Frayn, Tony Harrison and Frank McGuinness. In some cases, economics may play a part in the decision to intersperse "original" plays with adaptations, for writing plays is a lengthy and often un-lucrative business. "Another alternative is to write for a television serial," Dear says. "But doing that kind of work is damaging to a writer's skills."

Even among "original" plays, there are degrees of originality. Dear points out that Shakespeare plundered Holinshed's *Chronicles* and the stories of Boccaccio. Still, in the case of adaptations, the playwright does have the skeleton of a text to work on. "Adaptors don't have to be linguists," Dear explains. "For *The Last Days of Don Juan* the RSC commissioned a line-by-line translation from Kate Littlewood. Colin Chambers [the RSC's literary manager] asked me what instructions I had for Kate, and I asked for something as clear and unadorned as possible. I also had a Spanish dictionary."

By contrast, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* has been translated into English many times before. Comparing those translations gave Dear insights into earlier generations' sense of comedy. "French's Acting Edition is a 1950s translation by Miles Malleson. It's very strange. After every punline, another character says

"What?" and the punline is repeated. Very Ealing comedy." Even the best adaptations lose their lustre with time. Tony Harrison's reworking of Molière's *Le Misanthrope* gleamed like fresh paint at its premiere in 1973. A revival last year was in 1950s costumes, while Neil Barlett's recent version rooted the play once more in the here and now.

Dear is aware that adaptations and translations are far more ephemeral than their originals. "Michael Meyer's translations of Ibsen seem very old-fashioned now, full of 'frightfulness'. The life span of a translation or adaptation is usually about 10 years, with exceptions like Schiller's translations of Shakespeare, which have become definitive texts in their own right. When the next adaptation of *El burlador* comes out, it will feel odd. I do feel proprietorial about the play. I sense that I have a direct line to it, because I've spent so long rewriting every line."

He seems to choose his directors with as much care as he does the plays he adapts. Danny Boyle's production of *The Last Days of Don Juan* is set in 17th-century Naples and Spain. "You mustn't make it too modern and colloquial," Dear says. "It's partly set at court, with people calling each other 'Sire'. There is, though, some rougher language from a less courtly character."

There is no attempt to render the complex verse of the original, and Dear has changed the ending,



Nick Dear: an adaptation requires special sympathy for a play which he found abrupt and anti-climactic. But he has not tampered with the play's stern message, that there is no last-minute salvation for the sinner. "It's a very religious play — Tirso was a monk — and though I don't share his views, they're what drives the play." Dear sees Don Juan not as a 40-year-old Casanova, but as a young, immature man, he has also expanded the women's roles. "Tirso never lets us know what becomes of those women after Don Juan has ravished them."

## Gaudy parade of Jacobean beasts

**THEATRE**  
Benedict Nightingale

**Volpone**  
Almeida

THE thinking behind this production is not hard to uncover. Why give a premiere to another earnest attack on greed and riotous consumerism when Ben Jonson wrote the quintessential play on the subject some 350 years ago? Why limit yourself to saving stockbroker Jones or merchant banker Smith when their archetypes exist in his dramatic zoo, complete with names translatable as fox, fly, vulture, raven, crow?

It was presumably to emphasize Jonson's lasting power that Nicholas Hytner elected to play *Volpone* in his production. Ian McDiarmid's Volpone wears plausibly Jacobean furs and breeches. Denis Lawson plays Mosca, sidekick to this conman, as a canny tobyboy in black plastic trousers and green bomber jacket. There is even a hero — Marc Warren's Bonario — who dresses as a cricketer, waves a tennis racket and carries a dagger. A chronological identity crisis.

The danger is a fussy, attention-getting evening, and in some respects that is the result. Given the Almeida's minuscule stage, one would think it wise for director and designer to go for visual sparseness. Instead, they fill it with safes, trunks, packing cases, over which the actors must clamber



Malevolent: Volpone (Ian McDiarmid) delights in others' avarice

after wading across a brackish moat swimming with cigarette boxes and other detritus. Symbolic, yes — but it was more distracting than practical.

Yet there are times when Hytner opts for the clean and to-the-point. By way of concentrating attention on Volpone and his victims, he has cut the wordy subplot involving the nosy Sir Politick Would-be and his exasperating wife, and I, for one, cannot regret the loss. More to the point, he can get an actor to bring coyness sharply to life.

Philip Locke makes a parchment-faced Voltore, a deadly Dickensian lawyer who might have spent a lifetime arguing some Venetian Jarndyce versus Jarndyce. Cyril Shaps's half-senile Corbaccio dodders myopically across the stage, squawking high, querulous demands. Timothy Walker's Corvino, who is by far the most obviously birdlike of these scavengers, caws and shrieks with rage or with ferocious glee

from inside his pin-striped suit. Yet it is Volpone, who foxes them all with his phoney deathbed promises, who really matters; and McDiarmid certainly looks the part, with his bony predator's snout and the reddish hair weirdly sprouting from his bare torso as well as his head. More questionable is his interpretation, which substitutes malevolent puritanism, a delight in exposing others' avarice, for the majestic self-indulgence Jonson surely wanted. McDiarmid is always riveting; but the famous line: "The Turk is not more sensual in his pleasures than will Volpone," should come from a destructive Falstaff, not a corrupt Cromwell.

It is an uneven production which still has striking moments. Suddenly a vast strongbox opens, to reveal a vault out of which gold dust flutters, golden light floods, and from which Volpone's gaudy retinue take gold coins and perform a spoof eucharist. Now there is an image that crosses the aeons.

## Shows with conviction

**TELEVISION**  
Sheridan Morley

IN THE murky aftermath of *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, "trial by television" has again become a catchphrase. It is used by politicians and the legal establishment to discredit independent research teams working to cameras, especially when the television teams come up with fresh evidence which, to say the least, creates real doubt about the safety of a conviction.

But this is not a trial: the viewer is not being asked to judge guilt or innocence, merely whether or not there is cause for reopening a case which may have been closed too quickly, like the cell doors on the prisoners concerned. A pioneer in this field has been David Jessel's *Rough Justice*, which has just returned to BBC 1. At least three wrongly convicted men owe their freedom to it. Last night the programme for the first time considered a rape, that of a Swedish tourist in North London, who may have been so distressed by her experience as to identify not just the wrong assailant but also the wrong location.

There is clearly much fear in the judiciary that television is undermining its authority, but to ignore the evidence of programmes like *Rough Justice* simply because it has come through channels connected to an aerial rather than a police station is dangerously complacent.

It was a bad night for drama and the arts, in that we lost both *Never*

*Come Back*, the classic wartime thriller of recent memory, and *Signals*, the Channel 4 culture magazine which has come to the end of an all-too-short life before there is any sign of what the network plans as a long-term replacement. In its dying weeks the programme became better and better — a real fourth player, along with *The South Bank Show*, *Omnibus* and *Arena*. It went out in style with a consideration of the hero in Hollywood history, from Roy Rogers to Batman, by way of Conan the Barbarian and Indiana Jones.

Philip Davies's survey used director interviews and vintage clips to analyze movie history as no regular film programme bothers to do any more. It was a documentary about wide-screen mythology, a philosophical exploration of what America means by heroism in its post-Reagan culture, and a last reminder of what we are going to miss throughout the summer. If Channel 4 genuinely cannot afford to continue with a series such as this, something has gone very wrong with its remit.

*Bookmark* (BBC 2) found a splendid way to film *Moscow Circles*, the underground novel by Yury Gagarin which resembles Jack Kerouac rewritten by Dylan Thomas. Its hero drinks eau de cologne mixed with foot deodorant, beer and purified French polish while travelling on eternal journeys around Soviet railways. What *glasnost* was to do to this archetypal Oblomov from the lower depths has yet to be explored.

tailored to such "common" tastes. He is sure that we are far too sophisticated otherwise to enjoy his jokes which are, by any standard, terrible. To prove it, he tells some, and they are.

Only slightly abashed, and somehow having filled an hour, he confides that he will give us an interval, so that we can have a drink to get up our collective courage for a question-and-answer session in the second half — if we decide to come back. The predominantly young and adoring audience at the Lyric really is too sophisticated, or too much in awe, to give him a proper challenge, so that the impression is of a champion bullfighter confronting a flock of uppy sheep.

His pianist, Madam "Sunny" Rogers, is brought on too briefly for some suitably silly songs, and again we are willing victims, even acting out the words to "Three Little Fishes". He is not all-conquering; a few do not come back after the interval, but those who do are treated to a masterclass in humour.

## Wagnerian longing

**CONCERTS**  
Paul Griffiths  
LPO/Rattle  
Festival Hall

A COUPLE of years ago Simon Rattle conducted the closing scene of *Die Walküre* in Birmingham, and had one longing for him to do more Wagner. After another performance of the same chunk with the London Philharmonic, that wish can only be felt more keenly. Wagner conducting of this dynamism — I am thinking especially of the "Ride of the Valkyries", which was spliced to the start of the scene — demands to be heard with some scenic *raison d'être*.

More than that, Wagner conducting that couples a grand sweep with moment-to-moment intensity demands to be let loose on an entire score. There was, though, some advantage in a concert performance, in that few theatre pits would be able to accommodate an orchestra boasting nine horns and a string ensemble to match.

Moreover, seeing the in-

strumentalists — however much against Wagner's wishes — makes one notice the orchestration more, and thereby makes one aware of Rattle's skill in weaving a constant flow through passages of different colour and density. Everything seemed, in retrospect, to have been gauged towards the interlude before "Der Augen leuchtendes Paar", which was elevated by glorious hymnic phrases from the wind and a climax of exultant splendour.

The Brünnhilde was Rita Hunter, startlingly youthful in tone and taking effective care to show her resources to best advantage, though the phrases no longer unfold quite so effortlessly, and just towards the end she began to be covered by the orchestra. Willard White was Wotan as he was in Birmingham; aptly dark and severe in conveying divine anger, but then opening out into smoother, larger manner, even if his momentary attempt at intimacy caused him some problems. With all those wind players assembled, Rattle took the opportunity to programme Messiaen's monumental *El Espectro Resurrección Mortuorum* which, as usual with him, was majestically slow, solemn and sustained.

## Having fun, naturally

Stephen Pettitt  
Maxwell Davies  
Children's Day  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

IF MEMORY serves, the last time I encountered Chase Side Primary School, Enfield, was either as centre-forward for my own primary school's football team or as a member of a rival choir in the local music festival. Schools make music less formally these days. These children — magnificently robed and daubed as spacemen, monsters, and toys that spring to life — clearly had great fun with their performance: a world premiere, no less, of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's new extravaganza, *Jupiter Landing*, as part of Children's Day in the South Bank's Maxwell Davies Celebration.

The music is simple, but not too simple. Davies knows how far he can stretch young musicians, how to tap natural musical instincts. Time and again throughout the day we witnessed that in Act II of *Cinderella*, for instance, which was performed (sometimes shakily but with determination) by the Wandsworth Children's Opera Group, in the *Songs of Hay*, enthusiastically sung and beautifully danced by pupils of Nightingale Primary School, Haringey, and St Michael's Primary School, NZ, and in *The Great Bank*.

Perhaps the loveliest thing of the day, however, was Hannah Shield's playing of the piano piece *Foreword to Stromness*: simple, poignant, and nostalgic.

In the evening concert, Davies returned to conduct the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in a programme that included the English premiere of his Third String Quartet, a work which tests the technique of its soloists — Robert Cook (horn) and Peter Franks (trumpet) — to the full, and which is a compelling, beautifully coloured struggle for supremacy and reconciliation. This performance was dazzling and eloquent; no less so was that which followed of Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony.

## Surprised by success

**DANCE**  
John Percival  
Les Ballets Jazz  
Sadler's Wells



Carol Horowitz of Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal in *Adieu*

THE name Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal was apparently enough to pull into Sadler's Wells. A packed house for a company previously unknown here. So perhaps I should not complain that it lacks precision. Were we to see the kind of dancing known as jazz ballet, or ballets done to jazz music? It turned out to be something of each, with the word "jazz" rather liberally interpreted.

It seems odd to start with a work called *Adieu*, but luckily the title appears to have little relevance. Richard Levi's choreography is a series of routines, such as you might see in a burlesque musical, to a run of the mill soundtrack by Pat Metheny.

Brian Macdonald's *Big Band*, which closes the bill, is a superior version of the same genre; much more slick and professional in its choreography, benefiting from an attractive, easy-listening accompaniment of Stan Kenton recordings. In this piece the dancers, clearly encouraged to sell their personalities for all they are worth, give vigorous, hard-hitting performances.

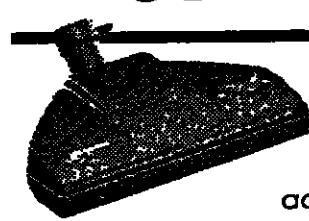
The company goes in for sexist stereotypes. Macdonald's duet to "I'm So in the Mood", casts the woman as the one wanting to be wooed, although the lyric is sung by a man. This is nothing to the unpleasantness of Lynne Taylor Corbett's *Appearances*, in which

the only point seems to be the ingenuity expended in getting three women stripped down from long black dresses to glitter-encrusted red leotards and black tights, to the simulated excitement of three white-clad men.

The programme's choreographic highlight is the British premiere of *Ebony Concerto*, a 1970 creation by John Cranko to the music Stravinsky wrote for Woody Herman (played by something called the Little Big Band — the only live music all evening).

It is a comic trio for a woman (Hua Fang Zhang) and two men (Aaron Shields, Eytan Sivak). Their joints are articulated like those wooden models meant to help artists with figure studies, their hair is frizzy, like Technicolor dolls — Silvia Stahammer gets no programme credit for her costume designs. The dances sustain the wit ingeniously; the performances might benefit from less clowning, but are bright and enjoyable.

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Enemies: A Love Story, Chicago Joe and the Showgirl, Look Who's Talking, Courage Mountain and All Dogs Go to Heaven

# Deadlocked in triple wedlock

CINEMA

David Robinson

The best film adaptation to date from Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Enemies: A Love Story*, is also the most substantial film so far in the career of Paul Mazursky as writer, producer, director and (here in a small but telling role) actor.

The discipline of the Singer story precludes such excesses of self-indulgence as marked Mazursky's last film, *Moon Over Parador*, while Mazursky's open-hearted affection for humanity, even at its most flawed, suits Singer's world.

First published in 1972 (it took Mazursky 12 years to get the screen rights), *Enemies: A Love Story* is multi-layered. The plot is the stuff of farce: Herman (Ron Silver), a Jewish immigrant in New York in 1949, finds himself polygamously married to three wives.

The characters and their predicaments, absurd though they may be, have all been shaped by the Holocaust. Herman, having hidden throughout the war, has married the Gentile Polish servant girl who sheltered him. His first wife (Anjelica Huston) reappears as from the grave, having been reported a victim in a mass killing.

The third wife, Mascha, has survived the camps along with her mother. All of them — except the Gentile who struggles to convert to Judaism — have lost all faith in the old religion and the old morality.

Singer avoids the clichés these people emerged from the Holocaust still fallible, not miraculously cleansed and sanctified. Although the first wife proclaims herself dead in spirit, they retain their capacities for strength and weakness, folly, dishonesty, love and sensual appetites.

Actors flourish under Mazursky's loving guidance. Ron Silver, much more impressive here than in the British film *Fellow Traveller*, succeeds in making the wretched Herman almost sympathetic, for all his weakness, mendacity and confusion, as he scuttles between wives in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx.



Unwitting polygamist: Ron Silver as the Jewish immigrant, Herman, with his third wife Mascha (Lena Olin) in *Enemies: A Love Story*

Truly magnificent are the Polish actress Margaret Sophie Stein as the Polish peasant, the Swede Lena Olin as the beautiful, highly-strung other woman, and the statuesque Anjelica Huston, towering over little Silver, as the caustic, comprehending first wife. In support are some wonderful Jewish character players, notably Rita Karin as a henna-haired shrewish neighbour-chorus.

The design (by co-producer Pato Guzman), carefully toned camera work (by Fred Murphy), costumes and Montreal locations combine to evoke Jewish New York just after the Second World War, and the fierce, if modest, aspirations of the new immigrants. The resourceful Maurice Jarre has concocted a haunting musical score out of period popular songs and Jewish klezmer music.

Even the four-page wartime newspaper could always find space on the front pages for a good murder story; and the killing in 1944 of a hire-car driver, George Heath, caught the popular imagination under the lurid title of "The Cleft Chin Murder" (which referred to the victim's facial oddity rather than the technique of the crime). The convicted accomplices were a shabby pair — a 22-year-old G.I. deserter and an 18-year-old stripper. Chicago Joe and the Showgirl (Odeon, West End), directed by Bernard Rose and scripted by David Yallop (a writer specializing in criminology) is a speculative reconstruction of their six-day relationship that became a *folie à deux*. Elizabeth Maud Jones (Emily Lloyd) and Karl Gustav Hulten (Kiefer Sutherland) meet

in a Hammersmith café. They eagerly accept each other's fantasies: that she is a showgirl called Georgina Grayson and he a Chicago mobster, Ricky Allen. In Yallop's interpretation, Hulten is drawn to Jones by sexual desire. Excited by his macho boasts and stolen gun, she dares him on to realize his fantasies of violent crime.

The fatal flaw in the script is that it withholds its mysteries too long. The interest of the film should have lain in piecing together, bit by bit, the reality of these two mythomane. Instead, we are left too long to wonder who they are, how she lives, and what his relationship with the US army is. The explanations are kept to the very end, and poured out upon us in the course of the police investigation, too late to recapture interest.

Given this considerable problem, the actors do well enough. Emily Lloyd, from the start, intimates an odd, warped streak behind the apparent chirpiness; Sutherland is more interesting than usual, working with this essentially weak character. The film-makers strive conscientiously to catch the drab atmosphere of late wartime London, and get most of the detail right. Constraints of budget inevitably show: it looks a very depopulated city, and one gets the feeling that another inch to right or left and one would fall over the edge of the studio set.

Hollywood's baby boom continues. *Look Who's Talking* (12, Warner, West End), written and directed by Amy Heckerling, pursues a single, cute idea, to give voice to the imagined thoughts of a child from embryo to his first

uttered word. The joke is that, speaking with the mature adult voice of Bruce Willis, little Mikey brings New York cynicism to his first-time perceptions of the world and the grown-ups in his life.

These are his unmarried yuppie mother (Kirstie Alley), his philandering father (George Segal) and a nice young taxi-driver (John Travolta), who gets involved with mother and child after an emergency dash to the maternity ward. In the way of people in romantic comedies, they are rather slower than the audience to recognize the inevitable outcome of it all.

As a simple, one-joke film it stays funny, even if the four children who in turn play Mikey are disconcertingly dissimilar. Kirstie Alley is a bright, tart personality, and 12 years after *Saturday Night Fever*, John Travolta has matured into an engaging light comedian, playing his duo scenes with the babies with particular charm (see interview below).

Johanna Spyri's children's classic, *Heidi*, appeared 110 years ago. Half-a-dozen screen adaptations have included an animated musical, though the best-remembered is the 1937 Shirley Temple version. *Courage Mountain* (U, Cannon, Haymarket, Panton St), directed by Christopher Leitch, puts the little Swiss heroine into a time-war which lands her in 1915, with the First World War as the latest accident of fate to separate her from her ancient grandfather.

The Swiss mountains are photogenic and there is a promising multinational cast (Leslie Caron, Charlie Sheen, Laura Betti and a gaggle of British schoolgirls), but all is in vain in face of a dire script by Weaver Webb.

*All Dogs Go to Heaven* (Odeon, Leicester Square) reaffirms that the Irish-based Sullivan-Bluth animation studios are generally better at graphics than storytelling (*The Secret of NIMH*, *The Land Before Time*). This canine cartoon musical muddles together bits of *Carousel*, *Annie* and gangster clichés, to produce a rambling, inconsequential tale about a delinquent dog who is sent back from heaven with a chance to redeem himself by one good deed. Children may well find it as tedious as their elders.

*Polyester* (Castle, 18): John Waters, the bad taste king, tipped towards middle-budget respectability in this domestic satire. With Divine as the housewife, and some wonderfully hideous interior decoration, 1981.

## VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**BAGDAD CAFE** (Vestron, PG): Percy Adlon's droll and adroit culture-clash comedy, with Marianne Sägebrecht as the large middle-class tourist from Bavaria stranded among misfits in the American West. Jack Palance is delicious as a former Hollywood set decorator eager to paint the heroine in the nude, 1988.

**BATMAN** (Warner, PG): Last summer's blockbuster finally hits the oblong plastic box. Visually diverting, though Jack Nicholson's outrageous Joker swamps Michael Keaton as the Caped Crusader, and the attempts at psychological insight get lost in the jumble of special effects, 1989.

**THE CAGE** (CIC, U): A foolish but fascinating curiosity — the pilot for *Star Trek*, unseen when the TV show began in 1966, and now released in colour. Dr Spock is here, but the other Enterprise characters were still in the pipeline.

**THE COLOR OF MONEY** (Touchstone, 15): Scorsese's belated sequel to *The Hustler*, with Paul Newman as the veteran pool shark taking a young hotshot (Tom Cruise) under his wing. A mordant study in need and greed, 1986.

**COUSINS** (CIC, 15): Social comedy — an American reworking of *Cousin, Cousine*, a French soufflé from 1974; with Ted Danson and Isabella Rossellini as relatives in love, 1989.

**KONGA** (Warner, PG): Through tampering with its "centrosomes", Dr Michael Gough turns a chimp into a monster. Bad but enjoyable British horror yarn with a quiet period flavour, 1983.

**THE LAND BEFORE TIME** (CIC, U): Cartoon adventures of plant-eating dinosaurs, from the makers of *An American Tail*. Cute, with a "green" tinge, 1989.

**MASK** (CIC, 15): Peter Bogdanovich's true-life drama about a lively teenager (Eric Stoltz) suffering from extreme facial disfigurement. Skillfully done, though you can get tired of watching a wonderful person being wonderful, 1985.

**THE PLANK** (Pinnacle, U): Eric Sykes' hour-long salute to silent comedy with Sykes and Tommy Cooper as two builders transporting a plank. Far less funny than the shorter television original, though the cameo-titled cast try so hard to please, 1967.

**POLYESTER** (Castle, 18): John Waters, the bad taste king, tipped towards middle-budget respectability in this domestic satire. With Divine as the housewife, and some wonderfully hideous interior decoration, 1981.

## Staying alive and staying hot

William Holden remarked to Gloria Swanson in *Sunset Boulevard*, Billy Wilder's classic film about a faded movie star: "You used to be big." "I am big," Swanson replied. "It's the pictures that got small." John Travolta, the hip-swivelling star of *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease*, used to be big too, but without the benefit of Swanson's script writers, he is far from eloquent on the subject of his subsequent fall from grace, and mention of a comeback sends both him and his syntax into disarray.

"You're enforcing me to be defensive because you have a lot of pre-decided viewpoints," Travolta complains. "How can I have a comeback when I haven't stopped working?"

The answer to that, as Travolta surely knows, is that film acting and occupational therapy being different things, keeping busy is not enough. At the end of the Seventies, the boy from New Jersey who had grown up wanting to be a star was routinely being described as the new Gene Kelly and a latter-day Fred Astaire. As nimble a dancer as Travolta was, however, in the Eighties he rarely put a foot right.

He did work with Brian de Palma on an intriguing thriller called *Blow Out*, and on the

Actor John Travolta, back in favour after years in the critical and commercial doldrums, tells Simon Banner he is reconciled to being famous all his life

strength of a film called *Urban Cowboy* he even looked to have real acting ability. But in a string of best-forgotten pictures including *Two of a Kind*, *Perfect*, and most recently *The Experts*, Travolta not only failed to display much acting talent, but seemed low on the wide-eyed charm which had been his stock in trade.

"I'm proud of some of those movies," Travolta insists today, but the movies he turned down — *American Gigolo*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, and *Splash* among them — would have made a far more impressive list of credits. He would have done *Splash*, he explains, had his agent not "mis-influenced" him.

He daily changed his agent, but

by last year Travolta's most frequent appearances were not on the cinema screen at all, but in the gossip columns, which enthusiastically catalogued the supposedly Brando-esque widening of his stomach. From the outside it looked as if he could hardly have sunk further from his days at the top; but one year on, Travolta, now 36, is suddenly back in demand.

The movie that has worked this magic is a comedy called *Look Who's Talking* (see David Robinson's review, above). With the film having already taken more than \$135 million at the US box office, there is plenty of credit to go round and Travolta is certainly getting his share.

He has been signed up for a sequel to *Look Who's Talking*, due to go before the cameras in June, and he also has two other films on the way: *Chains of Gold*, a drugs thriller, and *The Tender*, which he calls "an art film".

Travolta has no objections whatsoever to this return to form and favour being talked about in Hollywood parlance. "Yes," he says, smiling his mesmerizing smile, his eyes suddenly brimming with tears as if he is overcome with emotion, "I'm not again."

Given his undoubted likability on screen, as well as his abiding



Travolta: showing his rapport with children in *Look Who's Talking*

good looks, all Travolta probably needs now is better judgement or better advice than he had before. One senses that he will be reluctant to let success slip through his fingers again.

"I hope I'll have another hit before 10 years are up," he says, "but I think I can go on working for between three and 10 years on the strength of *Look Who's Talk-*

ing. You know, Jimmy Cagney was a friend of mine. He didn't do a movie in 25 years and everywhere he went he was still recognized."

Success or failure, Travolta says he knows that, like Cagney, he will always be famous. "I'll be famous 'til I'm out of here," he says, looking not so much appalled at the thought as hugely relieved.

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"SPLENDID" *Mail on Sunday*  
"STAR PERFORMANCE" *Evening Standard*

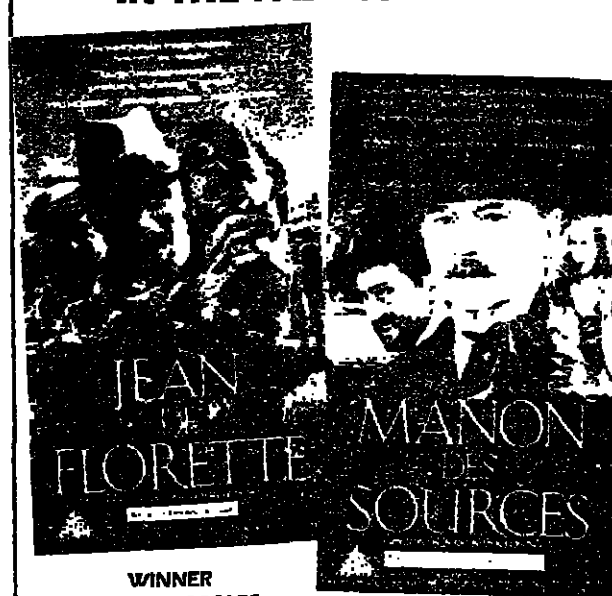
JULIAN GLOVER  
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# Sick of hospital food?

The poor quality of hospital meals has prompted renewed calls for improvement. Is money the only problem? Liz Gill investigates

Dr Mike Raynor's favourite example of unhealthy hospital food would be the patient who was wheeled out of intensive cardiac care to be presented with a plate of bacon and eggs; a case, perhaps, of the heart man eating a condemned breakfast.

Dr Raynor, senior research officer with the Coronary Prevention Group, is one of a growing number of professionals who want to see real improvements in hospital nutrition. Last week the Royal College of Nursing congress, which had heard alarming stories of malnutrition among elderly and mentally ill patients, called for written standards in all British hospitals, and their constant and careful evaluation.

Such views lend expert authority to what many patients have felt - at gut level - for years: that they get better in spite of hospital food, rather than because of it.

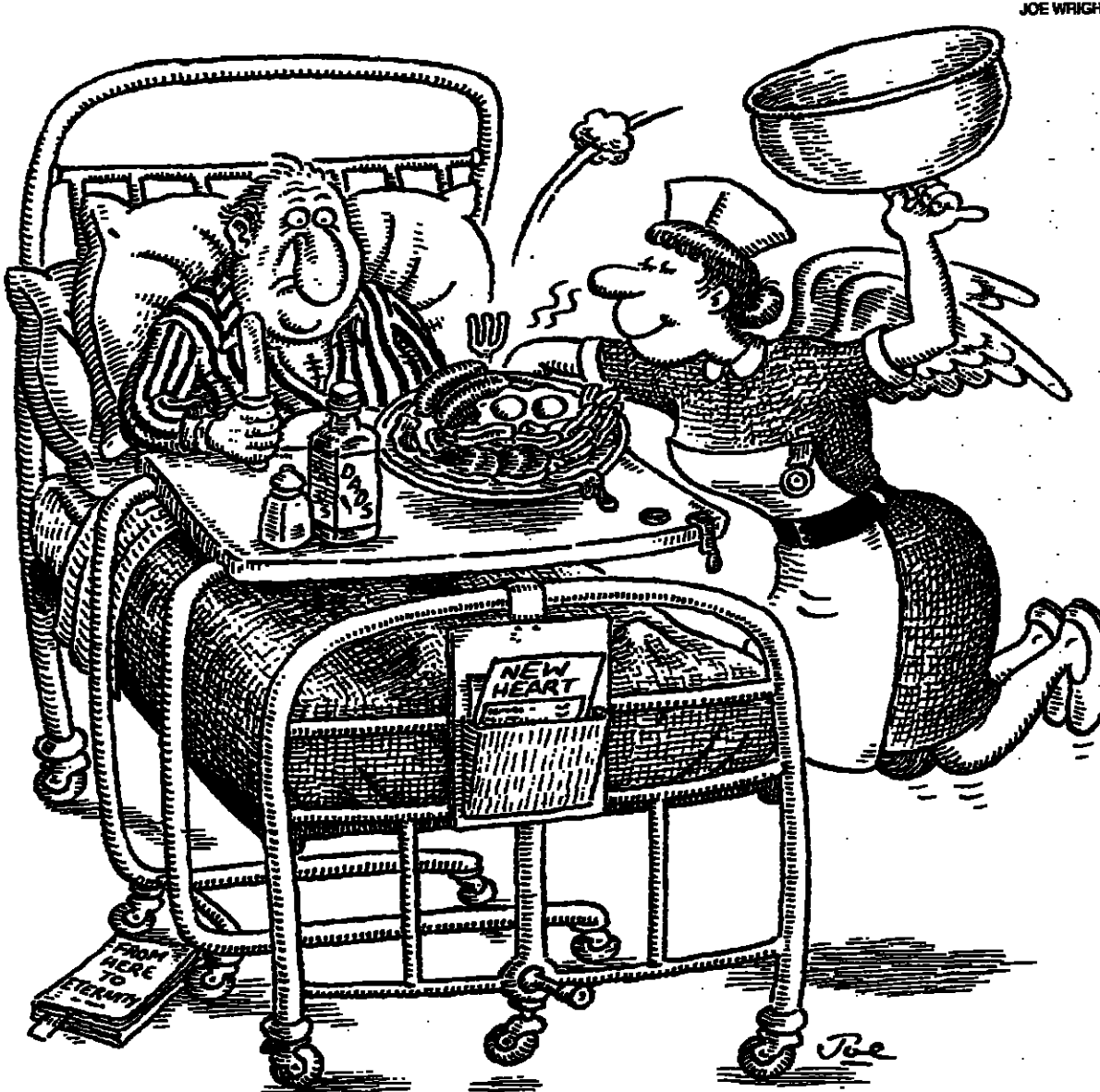
Dr Raynor believes that the Department of Health should issue dietary guidelines for all public sector catering based on the recommendations of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (Coma) report of 1984. "For instance, in the UK we get 42 per cent of our energy from fat when it should be only 35 per cent," he says. "It's not that difficult to turn these specifications into actual quantities of food. The same would apply to Coma's ideas on salt and sugar."

"One can't be authoritarian about these matters and start banning all salt, for example. But there should be a choice. In some hospitals all the options are unhealthy. And I think hospitals should serve an educational purpose. You cannot expect patients to change their eating habits if you don't set an example. Obviously it's crucial if you've had a heart attack, but even if you were going in for an appendix operation, say, it would be a good opportunity to learn that healthy food can be good and tasty."

A survey for the Health Education Authority in 1986 found that most authorities and boards in Britain had adopted a food policy in line with Coma's ideas. The practice, however, may be rather different from the theory. Dr Rosemary Hunt, the HEA's local food policy co-ordinator, is now awaiting the results of a follow-up study carried out last year which looked at how such policies were progressing.

"There are some difficulties with funding or finding the right person actually to implement the policy, and of course there are all the other distractions in the health service at the moment," she says. "Some are very committed, others feel they're swimming upstream."

Even with the best will in the world, hospital catering is fraught with problems, since it must be all things to all patients. On a domestic level it would be comparable to making a meal to please a sick child, a frail grandparent, a mentally ill aunt and the most discerning dinner-party guest. As Ann West, course leader for the Catering and Applied Nutrition degree at Huddersfield Polytechnic, says: "No other caterer would attempt to feed such a range of consumers. Your customers are sick, nervous,



tense. Yet food is often the highlight of their day, something that breaks up the boredom or interrupts nasty treatment. The trouble is that the technical systems we have generally fail to live up to these expectations."

Food is either cooked conventionally at some distance from the ward, or cooked and chilled and then reheated in the ward. Either way, says Mrs West, you can lose "eye appeal" as well as nutritional value.

The course she teaches was in fact created as a response to the damning Platt, Eddy and Pellett report in the Sixties, which painted a "dreadful picture" of hospital food. "They estimated that 50 per cent of it was not eaten because it was so awful," Mrs West says. "I've been visiting hospitals for 20 years now, and I think standards have improved dramatically. At one time you would see people cook something and put it on the trolley at 10.30 in the morning so they could go and have a break. They were cooking for a trolley, not a patient. But I think there's a much more professional outlook now, and a higher calibre of manager. And I'd say the rate of waste is only around 10 per cent."

She believes in offering a choice from which a healthy diet can be selected. "But I don't think it should be forced on people. If they are only in for a few days it's probably more important to give them the comfort of something they enjoy, even if it's fried or sugary. In long-stay hospitals, of course, you can do a lot more in the way of food and diet as preventive measures."

Patients in the private sector generally get more choice and better quality - and pay accordingly. At the Humana Wellington hospital in London, with more than 200 beds, a table d'hôte menu is included in the price of the rooms which range from

£250 to £355. Such menus offer a choice of five starters, five main courses with vegetables and salads and six puddings, comparable in quality to that of a five-star hotel, their Food Services Director, Andrew Neil, says. "We see food as an important part of recovery. People pay a lot, so they expect a lot."

An à la carte range - from beefburgers to Beluga caviar - is also available daily at extra cost. "We think our food is basically healthy. But we are not into 'healthy eating' as such, though heart patients would be instructed by our dietitian."

Most NHS hospitals spend between £8 and £12 a week per patient, more in acute wards, less in geriatrics or long-

**'In strained economic times patients' diets are often regarded as a soft touch'**

stay institutions. Kevin Higgins, district catering manager for the Central Manchester Health Authority, gives patients three meals a day plus drinks for £10 each a week. This amount covers the actual cost of food, but not such costs as labour or fuel.

"You have to look at the speciality of the hospital and the patients' needs. Obviously children are going to eat smaller portions than women in the maternity wards, who aren't even ill. Within our budget we try to put nutrition first, and we always consult with the dietitian. Then we try to offer choice, balance, colour, consistency and so on. But I always have to bear in mind that the product has to travel

well - the kitchen is a long way from the ward."

The authority is switching to a cook/chill system later this year where food will be reheated on the wards. It will overcome some disadvantages, though meals will still fall victim to other factors. "You get a consultant doing a late ward round or an emergency crops up and obviously the food has to wait," Mr Higgins says. "But it can be very frustrating when you know you've made something good, and by the time it gets to the patient it's spoilt and they are moaning about it."

Health educationist Andrew Craig, a member of Wandsworth District Health Authority and a special projects manager of the Royal College of Nursing, points out that food takes on an immense significance in hospital. "It has a symbolic as well as a literal importance. Feeling better is essential for getting better, and if you are given dreary, cold and unappetizing food that can be very depressing."

"You've got to spend a certain amount of money to produce food of sufficient quality and quantity, and many places are simply not spending enough. In strained economic times patients' diets are often regarded as a soft touch."

Caterers can keep costs down by wielding their substantial purchasing power, which enables them to negotiate special deals with suppliers. Most patients, however, would not expect to feed themselves at home for that sort of money, and might well be happy to make a contribution if it meant more enjoyable meals. But Ann West says: "You could ask why patients should eat for nothing in hospital, and I can see that such payments might come, but I wouldn't be happy with it. I think what you eat is part of your whole treatment."

# Drinking their way to a liver transplant

AT A meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology in Warwick last week, subjects ranging from gallstones to liver surgery for oesophageal cancer were discussed. But such is the public fascination with alcohol that interest at the meeting centred on the changes of attitude towards liver transplantation for alcoholic cirrhosis. Fewer than 900 people die of alcoholic liver disease annually while, for example, five million people in the United Kingdom have gallstones, and 45,000 gall bladder operations are performed each year.

It is now realized that to withhold treatment because liver disease is self-induced would be as unreasonable as refusing surgery to a smoker with cancer of the lung. Dr Roger Williams of King's College Hospital, London, reported on 24 patients with alcohol-induced liver disease who had had a liver transplant. The long-term results compared favourably with those who had needed a transplant because of non alcohol-induced cirrhosis. Between 60 and 65 per cent of Dr Williams's patients had survived five years; the longest survivor has lived for eight years.

Dr Williams's cases were carefully selected: only patients who had failed to respond to medical treatment were offered surgery, and all were patients who had been dry for at least six months, were free of other disease which might militate against successful surgery, and had a stable domestic background. Dr Williams found that such is the impact of liver failure followed by surgery that few revert to drinking; only one in his series of 24 relapsed, and in a larger group three out of 41 later succumbed to temptation.

A transplant offers a patient a chance not

**MEDICAL BRIEFING**  
Dr Thomas Stuttard

only of life but of a reasonable lifestyle. Most will be able to return to full-time employment. A cost analysis by Dr Andrew Burroughs of the Royal Free Hospital has shown that although it is initially more expensive to treat liver failure with a transplant than by conservative medical measures, the eventual difference is less than might be expected, as the continuing care after a transplant is cheaper.

Around 2,000 people die annually from liver disease in England and Wales. Not more than a third of these are from alcohol-induced disease, but of this third only about 100 each year would be considered suitable for transplant surgery. Transplant surgery can never, therefore, be more than a last resort preventive measure must remain the principle weapon against alcoholic cirrhosis. Heavy social drinkers as well as obvious alcoholics should be able to recognize the early, very vague warning signs and symptoms of liver disease. They must be aware of increasing lethargy, loss of appetite, insomnia, muscle weakness, morning nausea, persistent indigestion and an itchy skin. The patient's doctor may notice other signs: a tremor which affects the tongue as well as the hands, so that when the mouth is open the tongue can be seen flicking in and out like a snake's tongue; finger-nails which are unusually pale and grey, contrasting with the palms of the hands which are a livid red. The skin develops red spots - telangiectasia - or spider naevi, in which the red central spot has small veins radiating from it like legs from a spider. Easy bruising is also sometimes a clue to heavy drinking.

Heavy drinkers need regular blood tests; in doubtful cases, a liver biopsy or a scan to assess the degree of fatty infiltration is useful.

## Womb wisdom

Psychiatric disease is more common in women than in men, but it is impossible to know to what extent this is due to physiological and pathological causes, as opposed to sociological ones. The ancient Greeks had no doubt that it was physiological, and that the increased liability to mental instability in a woman was due to the fact that she had a uterus (the womb). Down the ages society has been so convinced of the extraordinary power of the womb to influence the psyche that hysteria, the Greek for uterus, has given rise to the term hysteria. The Greeks were not only certain that the possession of a womb was the cause of mental ill health and moodiness, but were also obsessed that its very position within the abdomen was important. In their opinion if it did not lie in the standard position a woman was liable to suffer emotional as well as physical symptoms. The Victorians concurred, and became as interested as the Greeks in the relationship of the lie of the womb to other abdominal organs. Once again a wide variety of symptoms was ascribed to "a misplaced womb". Great importance was attached to whether the uterus pointed forwards (anteverted) towards the abdomen, or backwards (retroverted) towards the sacrum, and whether it was straight, kinked, or curved.

Old myths die slowly: a recent correspondent to *Issue*, the magazine of the National Association for the Childless, complained that her doctors had been slow to realize that her troubles were due to her retroverted uterus, and had been alleviated only after an operation, ventrosuspension, in which the uterus is pulled forwards and attached to the anterior abdominal wall. Mr Stuart Steele, a consultant gynaecologist at the University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, has replied in this week's issue to the points she raised. In 20 per cent of women the uterus points backwards, in 80 per cent forwards. There is no evidence that in an otherwise healthy woman miscarriages are more common in one group or the other, nor is a retroverted uterus likely to cause infertility. Experiments have shown that an unusual lie of the uterus provided no obstacle to the passage of spermatozoa.

Mr Steele points out that in the great majority of cases the position the uterus adopts in the abdomen is of no more importance to the woman than whether she is right or left-handed. It becomes significant only when the retroversion is secondary to other pelvic disease, such as infection, or endometriosis, which has not only distorted the uterus but reduced its mobility; in these cases the correct course of action is to treat the disease rather than correct the retroversion.

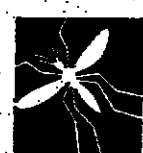
Very occasionally, when the womb tilts backwards, the ovaries are dragged down by it and lie lower in the pelvis than is usual; in this position they can become painfully traumatized during intercourse, and in this rare instance

ventrosuspension may still be a helpful procedure.

The modern woman should be grateful; the standard textbook of gynaecology in the 1920s recommended that a woman with a retroverted uterus should lie "for several hours a day" face downwards in the hope of altering its position. It did add that this treatment was suitable only for the "well-to-do"; the others, who presumably had to work, had to be content with the author's other suggestions of electric currents and massage. However, whatever the class of patient, the author's view seemed to be that they would eventually need surgery.

## Malaria news

The news this week that Mark Nicholas had caught malaria while playing for the English A team in Zimbabwe was another disappointment for cricket lovers, who are becoming used to the sports news sounding like a ward round. Nicholas's misfortune is a reminder that physical fitness is no protection against the malarial parasite. Nor is immunity conferred by previous exposure to the disease. A study of malaria in Leicester reported in the *Journal of Infection* found that in the past five years, 114 Leicester immigrants caught malaria during a home visit. The correct anti-malarial regimen varies according to the country being visited. Travellers to exotic places should consult the British Airways Travel Clinic (01-831 5333) to find out what is needed.



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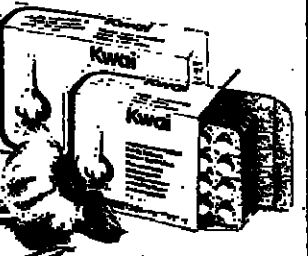
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The children of Hull make it safe for frogs to go a-woooing

## One jump ahead

It is a truth not universally acknowledged that the largest colony of frogs in Britain is to be found on Anlaby Common, just outside Hull.

Our wildlife laws certainly do not acknowledge it: Anlaby Common is not a Site of Special Scientific Interest, nor a National Nature Reserve, nor a beneficiary of any sort of official protection.

Though the common frog, *Rana temporaria*, is in decline all over the country, it is estimated that there are about 90,000 of them within hopping distance of the large, nondescript piece of land on the western side of Hull's urban sprawl.

Its attraction for frogs can be seen in the remains of a medieval ridge-and-furrow system which crosses it: the water table is very high, and when it rains the furrows fill up with water and a corner of the common turns into a lake.

In spring, frogs which have spent the summer and winter mainly in garden ponds head in from a radius of a mile around to the common to spawn, and when they arrive the croaking of up to 15,000 males at any one time sounds like a motorcycle race meeting.

Getting there, however, is far from straightforward. The common runs alongside a busy main road which on damp spring evenings has to be crossed by thousands of frogs who would a-wooo go. Large numbers get no further than a passing set of Dunlop radials and end up two-dimensional; local people talk in terms of a massacre.

Step forward, the Frog Patrol. Fasten jackets. Check torches. Pick up buckets. To the rescue!



They are the children of the Hull group of Watch, the junior wildlife club of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, and every year, on damp spring evenings, they perform for frogs that service normally associated with old ladies: a helping hand across the road.

Dressed in bright yellow overalls for road safety, and with adults in attendance, they patrol the roads and streets nearby, picking up hundreds of endangered frogs and depositing them safely on the common.

They provide a spawn rescue service when the common dries out, as it has done in the last two very mild winters.



Frog friend: Pippa Anderson

with fatal results for many of the spawn clumps, and they help the Hull Watch group leader, Mrs Ann Rayner, run her Frogline, to find homes for the rescued spawn.

These may be undramatic goings on as far as the wider world is concerned, but the lesson from them is perhaps worth musing.

It is not only that Britain's largest colony of an increasingly uncommon species has children to look after it. It is not just, as Mrs Rayner says, that people ought to have the opportunity to have access to wildlife on their doorstep.

It is more to be found in the reaction of the children if you suggest to them that what they are doing is yes, very praiseworthy, and so on, but frogs don't really matter, do they? "Rubbish," says Julian Wharham, aged 16, an A-level schoolboy who provides the quick-reaction element of the Frog Patrol with a bucket on the back of his bike.

"They are just like us," says Pippa Anderson, aged 11. "They have hearts. They have brains. It is only fair to save their lives."

Mrs Rayner says: "These children are going to grow up to be the environmental caretakers of the future."

They may well be on an even sadder track, if wildlife which is small and slimy and unglamorous is already included in their caretaking.

**Michael McCarthy**

The children of the Hull Watch group can be heard talking on PM tonight on Radio Four, from 5pm. Details of how to vote for the £25,000 award will be broadcast on PM tomorrow, and published in the Times on Saturday.

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Victoria Glendinning on the latest blast of the trumpet over the British hang-ups on sex and women

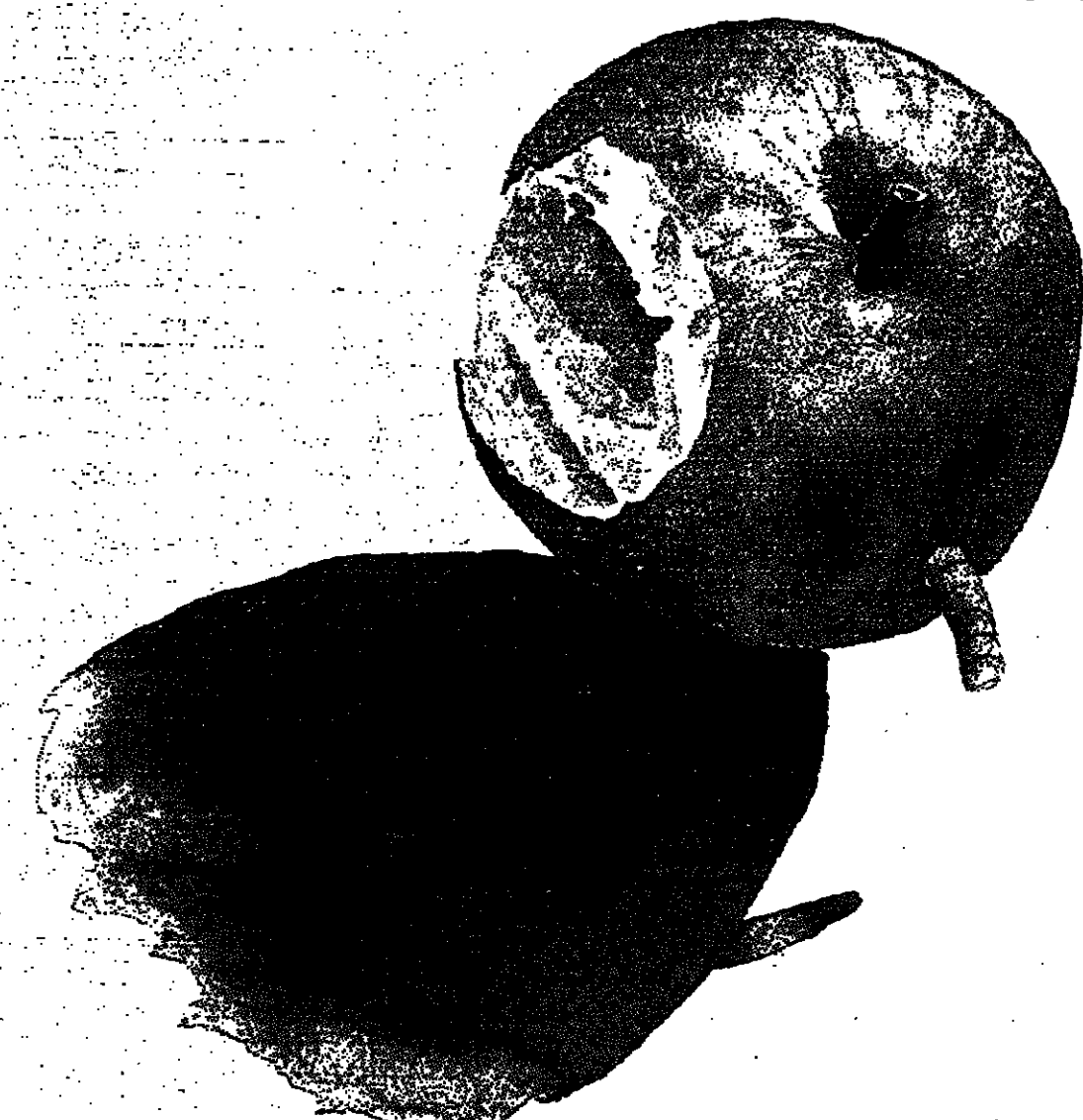
My themes are sex, dirt, fear and punishment. This book is not specifically about Aids, but was written as a response to it. The author in his first sentence calls Aids "a Copernican event in the history of sexuality", something that will change our view of the past and our conduct in the future. He spends the rest of his book tracing attitudes to sexually transmitted diseases and to homosexuality from the 15th century onwards — without ever seeming to notice that the evidence, and his own glosses and insights, prove the very opposite of his Copernican claim.

For venereal diseases, by his own account, have always elicited blame and hatred, and fear of them has always been exploited by those in authority to inhibit and control sexual activity. Homosexuals have always been repudiated by insecure members of the heterosexual majority, though the word "homosexuality" was not coined until 1869; before then, commentators devised ominous-sounding circumlocutions, and "sodomy" covered a multitude of so-called sins. The results of "labelling" homosexuals are discussed here, intelligently. (It is surprising that Foucault's *History of Sexuality*, from which most thinking about categorization derives, is nowhere mentioned.)

Before Aids, there was syphilis, which produced a gamut of appalling symptoms. The statistics cited are astonishing. In the mid-19th century, it seems that about half of all the patients in London's hospitals were suffering from syphilis-related conditions. In the 1920s, syphilis accounted for more deaths than tuberculosis or cancer. Syphilis, like some Aids sufferers, lost their jobs, or were ostracized, or were viewed as the recipients of divine punishment. Many people in authority thought it undesirable actively to seek a cure, since it would deprive church and state of any sanction against sex outside marriage. "We should not diminish the fear, but make it into a terror," as one peer said in 1919. The availability of condoms was condemned for the same reason.

Mr Davenport-Hines gallops through centuries of medical, legal, religious, and social history, and makes vivid use of broadsheets, treatises, sermons, newspaper reports, parliamentary debates, cartoons, caricatures, and advertisements. The book is not strikingly well written, but the massive collage of material is so riveting that the stylistic shortcomings hardly matter.

"Most men misunderstand womankind in general, and hate



GLYNIS BOYD HART

## Venus' golden apple is rotten

SEX, DEATH AND PUNISHMENT  
Attitudes to Sex and Sexuality in Britain since the Renaissance

By Richard Davenport-Hines  
Collins, £20

or fear a particular woman at a particular time," writes the author, without pausing to consider whether the misunderstanding, and the particularized hatreds, might not be mutual. This is a man-centred book. But then lesbianism has never been considered a threat to society, presumably because not many women have held positions of power.

Nevertheless a dislike of women underpins both terror of sexual disease and hatred of homosexuality. An 18th-century treatise on sexual diseases fastened on "the filthy gulph of a Harlot" as the

source of infection, as if women never caught anything from men. The writer of an anonymous letter sent to Peter Tatchell, parliamentary candidate for Bermondsey in 1982, boasted that when he was young, "Bermondsey

was a place where men were men and women counted as 'man-holes'." Homosexuals elicit hostility because they are thought not to be "real" men, i.e. they are like women, dirty gulphs and man-holes. The author has much to say about how all men should acknowledge and welcome the feminine component in themselves. The characteristic of women, however, which he most often cites as the one sadly disallowed to men, if they are to fit the specious manly stereotype, is "passivity". When you think of the exhausting lives most women have always led throughout all

history, that really is a laugh.

Yet he is good on the hysteria, hypocrisy, and wicked nonsense resulting from the defensive stereotyping of sexual categories, and specially good on the way the very men who express most loathing of homosexuals deceive themselves about the sexual orientation of chaps in their own set, and on the complexities of male bonding, and on the peculiar ways that class comes into it in England (as it comes into everything). Man's tragic capacity for denial — whether of his own experience, or along the lines of "There's no Aids in Tewkesbury", as the local Environmental Health Officer said in 1986 — is sensitively investigated.

The discovery of antibiotics (as a cure for syphilis and other sexual diseases) and the development of the contraceptive pill provided 20 years of seemingly trouble-free sex for both straights and gays. But Mr Davenport-Hines finds no good in the Permissive Society. It is, or was, "a horrible journalistic vulgarization... a debased stunt intended to verify and vindicate all the emptiest and most brutal clichés of male sexual identity". He finds very little light anywhere. In his account of the Wolfenden Report, which decriminalized homosexual activity for males over 21 in private, he cites so many of the hostile, bigoted submissions that one wonders how the committee ever came to recommend liberalization. In assessing (pessimistically) current attitudes to homosexuality, and to Aids, he disregards most responsible journalism, and quotes liberally from the grosser tabloids; but there is surely no serious topic on earth on which anyone would expect a worthwhile opinion from these sources. The world contains a proportion of bigots, bullies, blame-throwers, and doom-mongers. Homosexuality is just one target.

Mr Davenport-Hines is inconsistent. He criticizes the skull-and-crossbones style of some anti-Aids publicity on the grounds of its effect on children and adolescents, who see the frightening posters and are growing up, he believes, to think that sex equals death and to associate pleasure with terror. Yet on the next page he asserts that "any self-respecting rebellious teenager, admonished to a life of celibacy by a middle-aged politician" will "rush out in search of as much sex as possible with as many people as are available".

This runaway book will provoke many arguments; but it will not resolve them.

The writer's double life — the decent, the guilt, and the loneliness — is reflected in his relationships with two women: his wife Lida and the sculptress Daria. When he lies beside Lida, his infidelity is inexplicable. But Daria will not let him go. He knows the helplessness of his guilt in loving Daria he has betrayed Lida, but in returning to Lida he betrays Daria. "We break the ancient laws which echo within us, and we believe that we may do so with impunity."

We break the ancient laws both in our personal and in our public lives. At a time of reconciliation, the writer takes his wife to a family picnic spot, but it has been turned into a refuse depot. The country is polluted by rubbish tips and smoking chimneys, cancer agents which we inflict on each other. But of all the piles of indestructible rubbish, "the most dangerous are the masses of discarded ideas" — the meaningless, manufactured slogans forced on the Czechs and Slovaks during 40 years of communist rule. Klima was writing before the "gentle revolution" which swept away the tainted ideals of his country's old government, and brought in a new one. Now he is amongst those who are working — a little less gently — to clear up the rubbish of the past.

## Writer as dustman

NOVEL OF THE WEEK

Barbara Day

LOVE AND GARBAGE

By Ivan Klima  
Translated by Evka Oders  
Chatto & Windus, £12.95

During Czechoslovakia's dark years, there was (and still is) a man in Bratislava who had printed on his visiting card a line from W. H. Auden:

*We must love one another or die.*

I remembered the quotation when I read Ivan Klima's new novel, *Love and Garbage* is the narrative of a middle-aged writer in Prague, who has applied for the job of street-sweeper to gather material (maybe literally) for his next book. For he has come to realize that rubbish is indestructible — "It can, at most, change its form... it pervades the air, swells up in water, dissolves, rots, changes into gas, into smoke, into soot, it travels across the world and gradually engulfs it."

In his childhood, "the writer", like Klima, lived in the ghetto town of Tereznice, whence the only exit was to the Nazi concentration camps. After the war he discovered that "all those I had been fond of, all those I had known, were dead, gassed like insects and incinerated like refuse". And so he began to write, to recreate the lives of those who were no longer alive. Sometimes, having swept their patch, the writer and his co-workers sit out the rest of their shift in the pub. Among them is a

woman whose child was crushed in a road accident; a priest whose licence was rescinded; a young jazz enthusiast with a liver critically damaged in an industrial accident. The writer shares their friendship, absorbs and retells their stories, until, sitting in hospital with the young man: "All of a sudden it came to me how little I had in common with what I pretended to be. I felt ashamed."

## Antidiseestablishmentarian

Peter Jones

PAGAN PRIESTS  
Edited by Mary Beard  
and John North  
Duckworth, £24

Let Plato define the priests' job: "They understand how to offer gifts to gods in sacrifice in a manner pleasing to them, and they know the right forms of prayers for petitioning the gods to bestow blessings on their worshippers." How very different from the local vicar. What sensible people these Greeks and Romans were.

The Beard-North collection of essays arose from a series of seminars at that Alexandria of scholarship, the London Institute of Classical Studies. It is a pleasure to review an essay-collection that has been properly edited, i.e., the essays are not left free-standing but are overviewed in the in-

roduction, and made part of a continuing argument in the summaries that introduce each piece. There are three groups of essays, the first centred on the Graeco-Roman city-state, the second outside the city-state (Memphis, Babylon, Mycenaean Greece), and the third on the Roman Empire. The emphasis is on the connection between religion and politics, and

the extent to which the role of priests changes as societies change. One of the major themes is the strong modification to the conception of priesthood that takes place when Augustus, the first Roman emperor, assumes the role and functions of (as it were) chief priest (and so chief sacrificer), and makes the connection between state and religion symbolically absolute. Perhaps the most controversial claim in the Roman section is Beard's, that the main mediating body between gods and men in Republican Rome was the senate. One objection is that while the senate may intervene in areas of religious concern (e.g. introduction of new cults, for example, or the *Bona Dea* affair), it does so only when Rome's (political) peace and prosperity are threatened. This cannot be described as mediating between men and gods. This is an important collection of essays, generated by what was obviously an excellent seminar series. The Classics are alive and well in London.

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## Wild Wolfman of Rust City jungle realism

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

CHICAGO LOOP  
By Paul Theroux  
Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

THE BUDDHA OF SUBURBIA  
By Hanif Kureishi  
Faber, £12.99

THE STORYTELLER  
By Mario Vargas Llosa  
Faber, £12.99

MAD HANNAH RAFFERTY  
By Tony Sullivan  
André Deutsch, £11.95

Chicago has long bred a school of writers. The style tends to be harsh realism, an urban jungle where survival is all. Live and let live is not the maxim, nor right and wrong. It is, as Paul Theroux says in *Chicago Loop*, a city where inhabitants are happier among strangers. Most people want harm to come to the successful executive hero, Parker Jagoda, and some want him ruined or dead. His well-being creates their animosity.

Jagoda haunts the financial district, the noisy and anonymous Loop, where no one lives, full of the bitter smell of rusting iron. He is corroded with sexual obsessions, and commits a murder, and is called the Wolfman. His wife plays to his fantasies, but he succumbs to the dark underbelly of the city and his cravings. He dresses as a woman, as his victim, and he ends by taking the last step to the liberation of his own death. Theroux is one of the more powerful and evocative writers in the language. And this Chicago of perversion is more sour and disturbing than the stockyards of Upton Sinclair or the neon wilderness of Nelson Algren. The book turns the stomach and tips the mind towards the unimaginable, a *tour de force* of the recesses of desire.

The Buddha of Suburbia is about a young Englishman born and bred, who considers himself a new breed from two old histories. Hanif Kureishi dealt with the mixture of cultures in *My Beautiful Laundrette*; now his adolescent hero Karim Amir feels that he belongs to England and does not, which makes him restless and easily bored. The spirit of his age is a general drift and idleness. He loves men and boys, women and girls equally, particularly Charlie, who becomes a punk rock star, and Jamila, who likes having him in public lavatories, yet who accepts an arranged marriage after a hunger strike by her father, who is eventually killed by her crippled husband with a blow from pink dildos.

Karim moves to West Kensington with his father and mistress, who has pretensions and one breast. The suburbs are only a leaving place, the start of a life. "After that, you rotted or rotted." He becomes an actor in avant-garde companies, and endures revolutionary comrades and two of the more unpleasant artistic directors of modern fiction, whose manipulation never ceases. "It's always crap for actors," one of them tells Karim consolingly.

Hanif Kureishi portrays a decadent and dissolute society, cut off from belief and tradition, with nowhere to go except on or down. He is very funny about the clash of expectations and classes. He is merciless against imposture. He guts all except the characters of his original family of misfits, whom he loves in their floundering, Sardonic and ruthless. *The Buddha of Suburbia* derides London in full decay, and also the radical theatre that is the compost of the city.

With a playwright now President of Czechoslovakia, a novelist may become President of Peru. Mario Vargas Llosa is running for the post, and if his new novel reports his policies, the Indians of

the Amazon will find a protector in him. *The Storyteller* is a hybrid. Half of it is written by an author and maker of a television series called *Tower of Babel*; he remembers a strange Jewish friend, Saul, with a birthmark on his face, who has disappeared, perhaps becoming a bard or *hablador* among the Michiguena Indians of the rain forest. The other half of the novel consists of the mythological and modern stories of the *hablador*, who has become the memory of the primitive tribe which he has adopted.

The reasons for this metamorphosis — and Kafka's story is invoked — fascinate the narrator. Is Saul another version of the Wandering Jew, or is he attracted to a marginal society because he feels marginal on the streets of Lima? He is a fanatic about the destruction of the Indians by contact with linguists or missionaries or planters or officials or drug barons. His tales to the natives reach these days, and he insists that they should not change. "We'd best be as we are." The Amazonian forest should be put in quarantine, and all the people in it, who are the last to comprehend the connection between man and nature and the gods. It is Llosa's skill not to make *The Storyteller* a tract for green times, but a quest in search of a difficult spirit, who finds his *métier* in serving as the consciousness of a threatened way of life.

There is a prize for that most difficult of arts, the second novel, and Mad Hannah Rafferty should win it. Tony Sullivan has written a wry and analytic book about the way that the great failed crusade for peace and love and brotherhood of the late Fifties has become a modern psychiatric illness. His heroine is both a good Catholic and a revolutionary socialist in Liverpool. She marches to Aldermaston, she becomes a Trotskyite with her lover, her baby dies a cot death, she ends in a mental ward writing her memoirs on lavatory paper.

As with Llosa, Tony Sullivan makes no rant of this fervour turning into delirium. His quiet jokes deflate, his true observations illuminate. Vignettes of Liverpool and London could not be better written in shorter space. As an elegy to the last lost red dream of our time, *Mad Hannah Rafferty* hurts and grins. It is as fine as it could be about what could never become true.

Publication 5th April

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LMS



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The Times Educational Supplement recently published a six-part guide to Local Management of Schools, with case studies, checklists, advice and warnings on all aspects of LMS. It is now available in a consolidated 24-page format, with an attractive plastic wallet, for £2.50 (incl. p & p). To order copies of the complete guide, fill in the form below. For orders of 25 and over please contact Pat Lloyd on 01-639 0333.

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The Listener











## Private toll roads ahead

By David Young

PRIVATE companies will build three new road projects in the next 10 years and operate them by charging tolls, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday.

He confirmed that an Anglo-French consortium will build a proposed new bridge across the Severn three miles south of the existing crossing and will also take over the existing bridge and the £120 million interest payments still owed on the original project.

Private companies will also build a planned road around the north of Birmingham, the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, and a new road linking Birmingham with Manchester.

Mr Parkinson has also asked the civil engineering industry to come forward with plans to build six new road schemes to relieve bottlenecks on a private basis and on which they will be allowed to charge tolls.

The new schemes are a new Thames crossing by road or tunnel east of the existing M25; a new crossing on the Tamar linking Devon and Cornwall; a new Mersey crossing serving Liverpool airport; a link between Chelmsford, Essex, and the M25; a new route alongside the existing A127 from the M25 to Rayleigh in Essex; and a short link between the A1 and the M1 at Scratchwood in north London.

Mr Parkinson indicated that in the next Queen's Speech the Government will outline proposed legislation which would eventually allow a network of new private toll roads and bridges to be built.

The announcement of the Anglo-French consortium of John Laing and G T M Entrepose also signals that the Government intends to open up road-building to international competition.

Tolls on the private roads will be set in 1992 and revised in 1995 but thereafter they will be allowed to rise by the inflation rate until the capital cost of the existing and the new bridge has been met.

Mr Parkinson said: "This privately funded proposal offers the best overall value for money. The consortium's proposal is for a concession to collect tolls on the crossings for up to 30 years depending on traffic levels. On current forecasts tolls would be needed for only about 21 years."

"The new bridge - which I know is most eagerly awaited on both sides of the Severn - would more than double the road capacity across the estuary."

Comment, page 27



The man who had been apparently bound and threatened by other prisoners on the roof of Strangeways, appeared yesterday, giving a clenched fist salute

## Kidneys-for-sale doctor struck off

Continued from page 1

Afterwards, Mr Joyce declined to comment, but Mr Bewick unreservedly accepted the conditions imposed upon his registration.

Dr Crockett told journalists that he had been judged by rules that did not exist at the time.

There was a substantial difference between people working in "front line" medicine and those protected by the health service, he said.

"There are heads of departments who might never see death looking at them from a hospital bed. I see death looking at me every day."

He added that the press had put great pressures on his family, and he blamed those pressures for a car crash in which his mother-in-law was killed and his wife suffered multiple spinal injuries. His offices in Harley Street had been fire-bombed.

He complained that key witnesses - including Mr Ata Nur Kunter, the so-called "kidney broker" in the case - had not been called.

Mr Kunter, a former interpreter for Dr Crockett, said he had been surprised that he had not been called.

Mr Kunter, whose brother was jailed for two years in Istanbul last summer for

organizing the Turkish end of the trade, claimed to have information about paid-for transplants carried out by other doctors at another private hospital in London.

The GMC said it had been advised by leading counsel that it would be inappropriate to call any of the Kunters to give evidence.

After the ruling, Mr James Wellbeloved, director of the National Kidney Research Fund, said: "The public should now be reassured that this unethical and scandalous trade in human organs cannot happen again."

The use by Mr Bewick of a cadaver's kidney for transplant into a Greek woman will now be considered by Cumberwell Health Authority, which had suspended an inquiry pending the GMC hearing.

The Charity Commission is still investigating the National Kidney Centre, a dialysis unit in Finchley which Dr Crockett used as his base until his resignation last year. The centre has closed, but Mr John Cyster, chairman of the trustees, said yesterday: "Now we can move forward with a relaunch of the charity."

The four Turks are expected to try to bring civil actions in the British courts.

## The new peers

TWO of the 14 peers approved yesterday are former Labour ministers. They are Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, a Transport Minister who was later an EC Commissioner, and Mr Eric Varley, chairman of the Coalite Group. Mr Ivor Richard, a former British ambassador to the UN is expected to become a foreign affairs spokesman.

The other Labour peers are: Mrs Patricia Hollis, former leader of Norwich City Council and Professor Brian Morris, principal of St David's university college, Lampeter.

Mr Richard Holme, an ex-Liberal Party president, joins the Liberal Democrat peers.

The Conservatives are: Mrs Heather Briggstocke, former high mistress of St Paul's girls school, Hammersmith; Mrs Julia Cumberledge, chairman of South West Thames regional health authority; Mrs Sheila Flather, Windsor and Maidenhead councillor; Mrs Diana Eccles, chairman of Ealing district health authority; Mr Richard Cavendish, chairman of Holker Estate; Mr Malcolm Pearson, executive chairman of the Lloyds insurance brokers; Dr Ernest Soulsby, professor of animal pathology, University of Cambridge; and Sir Oulton Wade, a farmer.



Mr Clinton Davis Mr Eric Varley Mr Ivor Richards  
Professor Brian Morris Mr Malcolm Pearson Dr Ernest Soulsby  
Mr Richard Holme Sir Oulton Wade Mrs Sheila Flather  
Mrs Patricia Hollis Mrs Heather Briggstocke Mrs Julia Cumberledge

## Political sketch

### Joe's prophecy still being fulfilled

"IT IS a very curious thing," said Joseph Chamberlain in an after-dinner speech reported in *The Times* on March 21, 1892, "the types of the House of Commons are constant, although the men change."

Taking his speech as our text, let us examine Foreign Office Questions yesterday, to see whether the intervening years have altered his truth.

"I have never known the House of Commons without a funny man. (Laughter) ... When he dies ... there is another immediately to take his place. He is a man with a natural taste for buffoonery."

Mr Andrew Faulds (Lab, Warrley E) is an ex-Shakespearean actor, resting at Westminster. "Mr Speaker, as to Romania, a country I have not visited recently ... (Prolonged laughter. Mr Speaker rose ...) Oh Mr Speaker! I thought you were going to arrange it for me! (Shouts of "we will, we will" from all sides, more laughter.) Let us leave this mirth and return to dinner with Mr Chamberlain."

"Then there is the House of Commons bore - of course there is more than one (laughter) ... He is generally a man who is very clever, a man of encyclopaedic information."

Yesterday, Mr Nigel Spearing (Lab, Newham S) rose. "Will not the minister reconsider his use of the phrase 'the principle of subsidiarity'? Has he seen the report of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs about the operation of the Single European Act, EC 82, when I was a witness ...?"

"Then you have the weighty man and, gentlemen, the gravity of the weighty man of the House of Commons is a thing to which there is no parallel in the world."

Yesterday, Mr Patrick Cormack (Con, Staffs S) lifted his considerable weight from the sedentary position, and caught the Speaker's eye. "Is my Rt Hon Friend aware that in Romania, which I had the chance of visiting recently ... There were cries of 'hear, hear' and the rest escapes the memory. Mr Cormack will not mind, for we have remembered the important bit, that Mr Cormack has been there."

"BEEH THERE, DONE THAT" should be em-

bazoned across his vest, and perhaps in: "Do you have a question about Da Vinci? Mr Cormack knew him well. Does your inquiry concern King Zog of Albania? He was one of Mr Cormack's oldest friends. Are you concerned with the choice of Thorne for the exhibition at the Tate? Mr Cormack was in conversation with the Director only last week."

"You have the foolish man ... Yesterday Mr William McKelvey (Lab, Kilmarlock & Loudon) sprang to the defence of Fidel Castro. Was it not 'bullying' for the United States to broadcast illiberty to Cuba? Was it not the action of 'a naked, aggressive cowboy?' Up-bellievely the Labour front bench (in the person of George Foulkes) joined the call to prevent what he called 'self-aggression' against Havana."

"... the man with one idea ... John Caiside (C, Luton N), the last man still defending what even Pretoria has abandoned, urged Mrs Thatcher not to tread where Mr de Klerk himself has trodden. "It would be irresponsible to see Nelson Mandela" until he has renounced violence."

"You have the independent man ... Mr Nicholas Budge (C, Wolverhampton SW) bobbed up and down, hoping, as ever, to catch the Speaker's eye to explain where he thinks his own party are going wrong over the EC. Budge was once a junior whip but resigned because he disagreed with the Northern Ireland Assembly: a resignation which saved him having to resign because he disagreed with European integration, which resignation would, in its turn have saved him from resignation over the tolerance of the Chancellor's monetary grip. He was not called yesterday, but left with Chamber with jaunty step, as ever."

"You have the man who is a little cracked. (Laughter.)" Yesterday, you had a statement and questions to Scottish.

"All these men are there today, were there 50 years ago, will be there 50 years hence. Nay, Joe, 98 years hence."

Matthew Parris

## Britain wins car plant

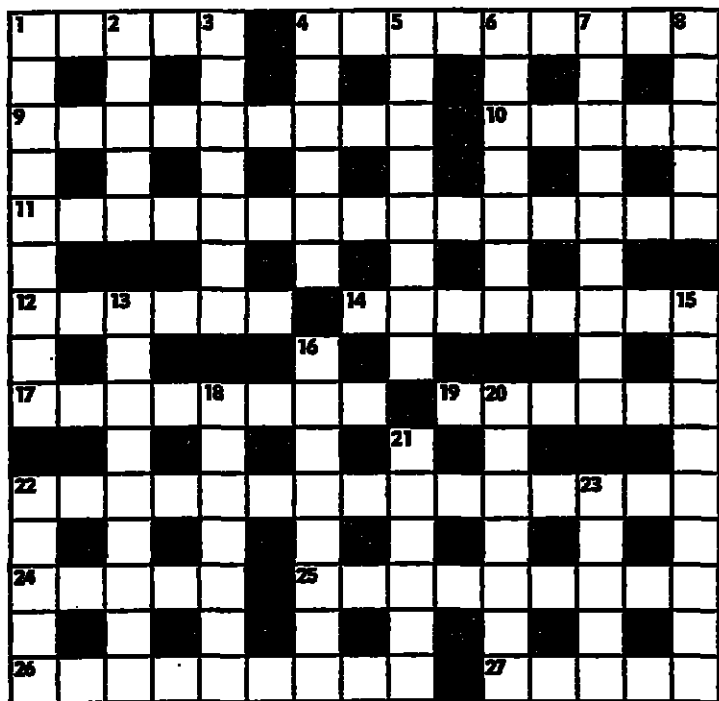
GENERAL Motors is to announce today that Britain has won the battle for a £200 million engine plant against stiff competition from Germany (writes Kevin Eason).

The plant, building a new generation of high performance engines for GM cars in Europe, will be at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, and employ about 400 people. The move is

a significant boost for Britain as it attempts to maintain its place as the key European centre for investment in car manufacturing.

GM was considering Kaiserslautern, West Germany, where it has extensive interests. However the co-operation of British unions appears to have been crucial to the Merseyside decision.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,260



ACROSS  
1 Left before the church's recess - a moral slip (5).  
4 Sound profit for Carmen's producer on small royalty (9).  
9 Stick together past a junction of this sort (9).  
10 Wildcat in Troy (5).  
11 It gave a sycophant a nasty hangover (5,2,8).  
12 Burma's revolutionary measures (6).  
14 Beef not available, so have a game starter (5-3).  
17 Fairly roasted when spring ended (4,4).  
19 Sea-god's noisy struggle with heavyweight (6).  
22 Taking pictures of the gods at short range (8,7).  
24 Opera that Oscar Wilde contributed to (5).  
25 Translucent white flower on Welsh lake returning (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,259  
REHOLDEN ISLAND  
AUEKSELEA  
CASTE PALLADIUM  
KBCIEIEBBA  
WEATHERED RUING  
ANEREGE  
REDHEAD ELIZAV  
CIVILIZED BEELIN  
SARTAVICARIOUS  
OUTNUMBER CHINA  
TIRLOAREZS  
HANSER SMARTEST

DOWN  
1 Least suitable Shakespearean recruit's call up - that's the limit (4,5).  
2 Publicity fuss for the Spanish exhibition (5).  
3 Had cine made to show Australian burrowing egg-layer (7).  
4 Disembark in, say, rising swell (3,3).  
5 Set up a banking system with a union for 18 (8).  
6 Rocky atoll harbouring unknown duck and salamander (7).  
7 Barge into Alan Cabot awkwardly (5,4).  
8 Knots sailors should not get entangled with (5).  
13 Dessert wine Simon the Cellarer set some store by (9).  
15 Imagine Frank not in love! (5,4).  
16 Iodine sister put on friend in flood (8).  
18 Song about an aromatic plant (7).  
20 Rave about the priest being dependent (7).  
21 Alkin to a mosquito, almost the last of the species (6).  
22 The way an artist comprehends universal Hindu aphorisms (5).  
23 Another religious book with pictures turned up (5).

Concise crossword, page 22

## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

GAMBEROON  
a. A trilled cloth  
b. A twined cushion  
c. A footstool  
PEYSE  
a. A captured ship  
b. A hunting blast  
c. Berley meal  
PALATYI  
a. A Russian sausage  
b. A deer-scratching monster  
c. Romanian palace guards  
LUAU  
a. A garland  
b. A welcome song  
c. A welcome profit  
Answers on page 22

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0636 401 followed by the appropriate code.

National traffic and roadworks  
National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745  
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

## WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy start with some rain or sleet. Clear periods will follow but further rain is likely during the evening. Northern England and north Wales will be mostly cloudy with some light rain. South Wales and the rest of England will have a mostly sunny but frosty start. Cloud will increase during the day but the South-east should remain fairly sunny. Outlook: Unsettled.

## ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	
Algeria	16-21	1-2	0-10	

## AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	
London	10-15	1-2	0-10	

## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10 (40F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 2 (35F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.05 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 hr.

## HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Peak, Dorset, 11C (52F); lowest, day max: Aylesbury, 10C (50F); night: Lowest, 2C (36F); Torquay and Talmaght, 10.5 hr.

## MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (35F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.05 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 hr.

## GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (35F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.05 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 hr.

### AM

### PM

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 7.40 pm to 8.20 am  
Edinburgh 7.50 pm to 8.30 am  
Manchester 7.50 pm to 8.30 am  
Cardiff 8.00 pm to 8.40 am

### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday, in °C:  
London 15.0  
Edinburgh 12.0  
Manchester 14.0  
Cardiff 13.0

### HIGH TIDES

Area	High	Low
London	10.55	6.10
Edinburgh	10.55	6.10
Manchester	10.55	6.10
Cardiff	10.55	6.10

### NOON TODAY



BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-32  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 35-38  
LAW 33  
SPORT 42-48

# BUSINESS

SECTION 2

THURSDAY APRIL 5 1990

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8415 (+0.0080)  
W German mark  
2.7913 (+0.0157)  
Exchange index  
87.8 (+0.4)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1749.7 (-11.6)  
FT-SE 100  
2231.6 (-9.1)  
USM (Datastream)  
141.61 (-0.29)

Market report, page 30

## Builder's profits up

A timely increase in sales of commercial property developments enabled Wilson (Connolly) to preserve its 15-year record of continuous growth, despite falls in house prices of up to 30 per cent. Pre-tax profits rose 2 per cent to £54.2 million in the year to December on sales 19 per cent up at £193 million. Earnings rose 3 per cent to 19.6p and a final dividend of 2.3p (2p) makes 3.45p, up 15 per cent. *Tempus, page 26*

## H&amp;C advances

Harrisons & Crossfield raised pre-tax profits from £123 million to £130 million in 1989 on turnover of £1.92 billion (£1.8 billion). A final dividend of 5.1p, payable July 2, makes 8.5p (7.7p). *Tempus, page 26*

## ADT issue

ADT is hoping to offset a big part of its £160 million investment in BAA via a £100 million preference share issue, convertible into BAA shares. BAA shares fell 19p to 386p. *Comment, page 27*

## STOCK MARKETS

New York  
Dow Jones 2738.28 (+0.45)  
Nikkei Average 28442.94 (-916.78)  
Hong Kong  
Hang Seng 2260.08 (-2.38)  
Amsterdam  
CDS Tendency 116.4 (+0.7)  
Sterling AG 1205.77 (+5.42)  
Frankfurt DAX 1983.25 (-5.08)  
Bremen  
General 6116.42 (+12.25)  
Frankfurt C2 520.00 (+0.20)  
Zurich S&K Gen 587.4 (-1.3)  
London  
FT-A All-Share 1107.80 (-3.77)  
FT-100 1205.77 (+5.42)  
FT Gold Mines 277.4 (+0.9)  
FT Fixed Interest 86.17 (+0.15)  
FT Govt Secs 77.25 (+0.43)  
Recent issues Page 30  
Closing prices Page 31

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES  
SG Warburg 489p (+15p)  
Harcourt Thompson 500p (+20p)  
A&L Lacy 110p (+12p)  
Ducous 118p (+12p)  
Sun Alliance 303p (+15p)  
Thames TV 222p (+12p)  
Eurotunnel Units 580p (+12p)  
Hampson 789p (+25p)  
Rothmans 275p (+10p)  
West & Country 170p (+45p)  
FALLS  
Henderson Admin 735p (-10p)  
Rank Drg 752p (-12p)  
Brent Walker 306p (-31p)  
Carlson Comm 544p (-11p)  
Mitsubishi 385p (-19p)  
BAA 385p (-19p)  
Dunlop 705p (-10p)  
Dunlop Holdings 725p (-10p)  
Thomson Corp 725p (-10p)  
Hickson 197p (-32p)  
Closing prices Page 30  
SEAG Volume 305.4m

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%  
3-month interbank 15 1/4-15 1/2%  
3-month eligible bills 14 1/4-14 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 8 1/4-8 1/2%  
3-month Treasury bills 7.63-7.81%  
30-year bonds 8 1/2-8 3/4%

## CURRENCIES

London  
£/\$ 1.8415  
£/DM 2.7913  
£/Sfr 2.4729  
£/FF 16.3762  
£/Yen 250.26  
£/Indones 27.8  
ECU £0.794133  
£/Ecu 1.302150  
New York  
£/\$ 1.8420  
£/DM 2.7902  
£/Sfr 2.4700  
£/FF 16.3700  
£/Yen 250.25  
£/Indones 27.75  
ECU £0.794133  
£/Ecu 1.302150

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$374.25 pm \$374.25  
close \$374.25-374.75 (2227.75-228.25)  
New York  
Comex \$373.70-374.20

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$18.35 bbl (\$18.60)  
Dances latest trading price

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.8415	1.8415
Austria Sch	20.50	20.50
Belgium Fr	66.78	66.78
Canada \$	1.005	1.005
Denmark Kr	11.20	11.20
Finland Mk	6.92	6.92
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.4729	2.4729
Greece Dr	212.25	212.25
Hong Kong \$	1.0490	1.0490
Italy Lit	216	216
Japan Yen	250.26	250.26
Netherlands Gld	3.20	3.20
Norway Kr	11.20	11.20
Portugal Esc	204.25	204.25
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.51	10.51
Switzerland Fr	2.4729	2.4729
Turkey Lira	4.325	4.325
USA \$	1.8415	1.8415
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.8415	1.8415

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Discount rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index 129.2 (February)

## G7 to focus on German monetary union



Pöhl: forced to eat words

By Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

THE fast-developing debate in Germany over the terms on which the East German economy can be integrated into the West German is likely to be the main focus of discussions at Saturday's meeting of the Group of Seven, in Paris.

The finance ministers and central bank governors of the seven leading industrial nations are likely to begin their meeting with a review of the world economy in which German unification is one of the main moving factors.

The G7 will want to form a view of whether German monetary union is likely to be inflationary, what

effect it could have on interest rates and how far it may reduce the long-standing international payments imbalance by re-directing German exports inward.

Ministers are expected to move on from there to consider recent events in the currency markets and the implications of GMU for interest rates and exchange rates. The US is particularly anxious to avoid any further rise in interest rates internationally in view of the intermittent signs of slow-down in the US economy and will be seeking some reassurance from the Germans that GMU will not raise German interest rates.

The immediate currency concern

is with the weakness of the Japanese yen, which is seen as unhelpful in reducing payments imbalances. Other members of the G7 are likely to feel that there is still room to raise Japanese rates further without causing a general rise in rates.

There will also be a further discussion of the proposed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and events in Eastern Europe generally for which the G7 meeting was originally called.

However, while GMU will be the theme which underlies much of the discussion, ministers and governors from the six non-German countries are not going to Paris with any intention of significantly influencing

the process of GMU itself. On this subject they will listen.

For the most part finance ministries and central banks do not have any clearly worked out views on how GMU should be accomplished.

The precise terms on which GMU will be achieved are still uncertain. The Bundesbank has proposed an exchange of two Ostmarks for one Deutschmark, but the impression left by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, before the East German elections, was the basis would be one-for-one.

The outcome appears to depend on an internal debate — or power struggle — in the Federal Republic. When the President of the Bundesbank, Herr Karl Otto Pöhl,

described one-for-one convertibility as "fantastical", in the week before the East German elections, he was forced to eat his words within a few days. But the Bundesbank has returned to the fray.

Yesterday, the Vice-President Herr Helmut Schlesinger said it was an "illusion" to think that the two marks had to be exchanged one-for-one just because they were both called marks. He said: "The GDR was itself aware that it would be too much for the limited productive capacity of the East German economy, if a conversion rate of one-for-one was chosen. The GDR was thinking of two-for-one, 2.5-for-one for industrial groups."

## NEDC chief concerned over industry

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

CONCERN that British industry still suffers from poor quality, worse delivery and burgeoning wage demands — despite more than a decade of a Government bent on fostering the "enterprise culture" — surfaced at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

The round table forum, which brings together government, industry and the trade unions, was discussing a paper, presented by Mr Walter Ellis, NEDC director general, on the deterioration in the country's trade performance.

The Government is hopeful that its counter-inflationary policy will narrow the current account deficit, which measures trade in goods and services, by curbing demand for imports, while British firms look for more business abroad. The deficit was a record £20.8 billion last year.

Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, told the meeting that the key to improved performance was sustained investment.

The paper acknowledged that exports, excluding oil, had grown by more than 10 per cent over the last year — outstripping import growth. But the improvement in exports started from a low base.

The collapse of Britain's

traditional surplus on services, such as banking, insurance, shipping and travel, was described as "extremely worrying", making improved trade in manufactured goods "crucial".

But Mr Ellis identified unfavourable developments on the wage front which had slowed the gains in productivity in manufacturing and brought unit wage cost growth to an annual rate of more than 6 per cent, compared with less than 3 per cent for leading competitors abroad.

If unit wage costs continue to grow at the current pace in Britain, with an unchanged exchange rate, industry is seen as becoming gradually less competitive, hampering the "urgently needed" switch from home to export markets.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, chairing the session, observed that all participants agreed it was worrying that unit costs were growing faster than those of the competition.

The paper looked at five sectors of industry that accounted for £15 billion of last year's trade gap — engineering, electronics, construction, clothing and knitting, and tourism and leisure.

While high technology sectors showed the fastest growth and relatively high value-added per worker, other measures revealed the old problem of poor quality. In terms of

value-added per tonne, which should indicate the proportion of sophisticated gadgetry in a product, machine tools, pumps and farm machinery scored relatively badly against the leading industrial economies.

The sectoral studies showed up a discrepancy in several industries between the specified quality a product ought to have and the actual quality delivered, recalling the time when British industry became virtually synonymous with bad quality and still worse delivery.

The retail sector, which has done much to raise quality on the home market, was praised in the report for serving consumers well.

But it had left British suppliers more vulnerable in certain industries to international competition than producers in countries which are not "nations of shopkeepers".

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, shared the concern about the retail sector's effect in sucking in imports. The trade gap, he said, was, however, basically an issue of "excessive demand".

Drawing attention to the international success of Britain's pharmaceutical, aerospace and chemicals industries, he said that the criterion for manufacturing was achieving "world class".

## Woman on the upper deck of business

ADRIAN BROOKS



Nursing ambitions: former NHS trainee Ann Gloag celebrates in the shadow of Florence Nightingale's statue

### Stagecoach chief wins top title

By Stephen Leather

BUS driver's daughter Ann Gloag is now firmly in the driving seat of her own company — and yesterday she was named Business Woman of the Year.

Mrs Gloag, aged 47, started with two old buses, offering a cheap service from Dundee to London. She is now boss of the Stagecoach company that has a fleet of 2,600 vehicles, 8,000 employees worldwide and a turnover of more than £100 million.

Accepting the award at the Institute of Directors, Mrs Gloag said that to be a success, "a woman in business has to look like a lady, act like a man and work like a dog."

She trained as an NHS nurse before renting caravans to tourists in Scotland. She rented minibuses to road contractors and moved into the coach business, buying her first bus for £300.

She wants to buy routes run by the Scottish Bus Group which is being sold off under deregulation legislation and plans to float the company. A private placing in 1988 was over-subscribed by seven Scottish financial companies and shareholders' funds total more than £20 million.

Past winners of the award include Miss Sophie Mirman, the Sock Shop chairman; Miss Debbie Moore, founder of Pineapple Studio; and Miss Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop International.

## Sun Alliance flooded out

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

CLAIMS of more than £120 million from Hurricane Hugo, and from land subsidence caused by the unusually hot summer, cut pre-tax profits of Sun Alliance, Britain's largest general insurer, by 14 per cent to £319 million last year.

The company also warned it faces claims of £220 million from storms and floods this winter, although reinsurance will reduce its liability to £150 million.

A strong performance from

investments increased shareholders' funds by 40 per cent to £2.94 billion, allowing the company to pay a final dividend of 8p, making 12.5p for the year, up 22 per cent.

The damage caused by Hugo in the Caribbean pushed Sun's overseas division to an underwriting loss of £65 million, £36 million worse than last year.

The company's Australian division met claims of £13 million from the earthquake

in Newcastle, New South Wales.

In Britain, policy holders claimed £68 million from subsidence damage, cutting underwriting profits by 30 per cent to £33 million. The motor division lost £28 million as claims continued to rise.

Since the storms, Sun has commissioned a team to study whether the world's weather patterns are changing.

Tempus, page 26

## Rebels lose fight to block £1 buyout at Lexterten

By Gillian Bowditch

THE battle over Lexterten, the reproduction furniture business which is part of Era Group, was won by the Lexterten management buy-out team yesterday at the end of a heated two-hour extraordinary meeting.

The proposal to sell Lexterten to its management for a single £1 with £3.9 million of write-offs was voted through by 27 million votes to 14 million against.

Mr David Llewellyn, a former managing director of Lexterten who led rebel shareholders speaking for 10 per cent of Era and who made an alternative offer for Lexterten, said he was disappointed by the result. "A lot

of people supported us but at the end of the day the institutions swung it," he said.

However, he said he was pleased by the appointment of three new non-executive directors and the resignation of two Era group board members. "The non-executives were our choice," he said. "Board control has been broken and that is a good thing."

Era, which is believed to have been under institutional pressure to strengthen its board, has appointed Mr Ian Duncan, finance director of Guinness, Mr Anthony Fay, a chartered accountant, and Mr Peter Revell-Smith, an investment banker, as non-executive directors. Mr Revell-Smith was a supporter of Mr Llewellyn's proposals.

Mr Pat Hammond-Turner and Mr David Roxburgh will resign as executive directors of Era next month but will remain as consultants to the group for one year.

Era, whose accounts have been qualified by its auditors, made pre-tax profits of £631,000 in 1989 compared with £4.59 million in 1988 but an extraordinary write-off of £3.94 million after tax means it made a £4.3 million loss after tax and dividends compared with an after tax profit of £1.4 million in 1988. The company is "technically unable" to pay a final dividend for 1989.

### Boesky walks free to a multi-million dollar home

## Insider back on the outside

From John Durie, New York

MR IVAN Boesky, the arbitrageur who sent Wall Street into a panic in 1986 when he pleaded guilty to insider trading, walked out of jail early yesterday morning.

Mr Boesky completed a two-year term after having been convicted of corporate fraud charges. He will have to report to a probation officer for six months.

But while he is banned from re-entering the US securities industry he can exploit a legal loophole to provide investment services for up to 14 people provided he does not advertise his services.

Mr Boesky paid a \$100 million fine to settle charges with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but in some ways the regulator did him a favour.

His conviction in 1986 meant he avoided the losses which crippled many of his colleagues in the October 1987 stock market crash.

Mr Boesky was released from a

Brooklyn half-way house and returned to his 75-acre estate in New York, where his wife Seema has been busy preparing for his homecoming.

After completing renovations which included a dome on the top of the multi-million-dollar house, she has been seeking neighbours' permission to erect a 6ft-high chain-wire fence around it.

Mr Boesky's lawyers have declined to comment on his future activities, but he is expected to give evidence against his former friend and junk bond founder Mr Michael Milken.

Mr Boesky has spent much of his jail term helping the SEC prepare its case against Mr Milken and other members of the securities industry.

Mr Boesky's admission of guilt, coming soon after admissions by another former Drexel Burnham Lambert executive, Mr Dennis Levine, sent a wave of fear through Wall Street.

The SEC and the US District Attorney

launched an attack on insider trading which touched even firms with spotless reputations.

But there have been few convictions other than in cases where there has been a guilty plea.

The investigation was partly responsible for the demise of Drexel Burnham Lambert, which paid more than \$650 million as part settlement of SEC charges.

In prison, Mr Boesky immersed himself in religious studies, and these along with a body-building programme, kept him busy.

Much of his time was spent at a minimum-security prison in California where he was able to order meals from outside and keep in touch with the financial community through his daily copy of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Mr Boesky is bated for his key role in turning state's evidence to inform on his former trading partners on Wall Street.

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SHARE SERVICE



## Property company move by Arcadian

By Michael Tate  
Deputy City Editor

MR ROBERT Breare and Mr Jeremy Priestley, who built up the Parkdale Holdings property and leisure group before selling out to Pavilion Leisure for £67 million last August, are moving in at Westminster and Country Properties.

They are reversing Arcadian International's move, their new company, into Westminster, where the Parkes family is relinquishing control by selling 29.9 per cent of the shares, at 205p each, to Mr Breare, Mr Priestley, their associates and a handful of institutions.

The Parkes family will retain 22.4 per cent of the Westminster equity, but will lose most of their boardroom seats, although Mr David Parkes, with 10 per cent, stays on as executive deputy chairman.

Mr Parkes, who also picks up £200,000 in compensation for cancellation of his profit-related contract, has promised not to sell any shares at below 205p for the next 12 months.

News of the deal sent Westminster shares soaring 45p to 470p.

Mr Breare becomes chief executive of Westminster and Mr Priestley an executive director.

Sir Peter Parker, the former head of British Rail and former chairman of Parkdale, moves in as non-executive chairman.

Under Mr Breare, Arcadian, formed in December, 1989, has assembled an experienced leisure property management team, with a view to developing and running hotels and country clubs offering a broad range of golf and other leisure activities, both in Britain and mainland Europe.

It will aim for projects between £10 and £40 million and plans to start work on at least two projects in Europe each year. Negotiations are already under way.

# Hurricane and winter storms fail to cloud Sun Alliance

WHAT a difference a set of figures makes! In February, while insurance assessors totted up the damage from the winter winds, City analysts were shaking their heads about Sun Alliance. High exposure to UK property, combined with a stoic refusal to succumb to the lure of hefty reinsurance cover, looked like leading to bad times ahead.

Yesterday's results turned that around. A 14 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £319 million was the mildest pain shown so far in this reporting season by a composite insurer. Together with a 22 per cent increase in the year's dividend to 12.5p, it put the results at the top end of expectations.

Sun's main success was a lower exposure to the US. Hurricane Hugo still accounted for its overseas underwriting loss worsening from £29 million to £65 million. But this failed to dent the underlying strength of UK general underwriting profits, down by only £14 million despite £68 million in hot-summer subsidence claims.

A 22 per cent gain in investment profits to £342 million and a 23 per cent increase in life profits to £38 million were the other factors that shielded the bottom line.

What really impressed the City, however, was the company's solvency margin, the ratio of net assets to annual premium. By the year end this had risen from 93 to 119 per cent, although the worldwide fall in stock markets has since trimmed this to 111 per cent.

Compare this to the likes of Royal Insurance, which trades on barely half that figure. In short, it gives Sun the capital strength for above-average dividend growth in future years, and to meet this winter's damage bill with good grace if not with ease.

Sun estimates it will pay out a net £150 million for the damage after reinsurance,

slightly less than previous forecasts. As long as there are no further disasters the company should still be capable of a £100 million profit this year. A dividend of 14.5p puts the company on a yield of 6.3 per cent. Sun is not the highest earner in the sector, and there seems little chance for take-over gossip to enliven the situation. Its capital strength is attractive, none the less.

## Harrisons & Crosfield

Harrisons & Crosfield has nailed its colours to the mast by declaring that it will pursue a progressive dividend policy. For 1989 its payment duly rises 10.4 per cent to an overall 8.5p, though net earnings rose a mere 2 per cent.

It was still a transitional year as H&C continues to change its spots from a former plantations group into a more diversified industrial empire. While various divisions were helped by acquisition benefits, and overall pre-tax profits rose by 6 per cent to £130.7 million, higher tax and an increased share base took their toll at the earnings level.

The four core building blocks — chemicals, timber and building supplies, food and agriculture, and plantations — remain H&C's bedrock, and further add-ons must be expected as 1990 and 1991 unfold. Even if gearing, set to fall by 5 percentage points to 40 per cent when proceeds from the recent sale of general trading interests come through, has to rise, H&C is not that concerned. Interest cover remains a healthy 7.8 times, and the group is determined that attractive business opportunities will not be passed by.

Though H&C's jigsaw puzzle of interests will eventually fall into place, and net earnings move up at a faster pace, 1990 looks like being another year of only modest profits growth. Commodity prices remain weak, and certain business areas remain patchy. Others areas are brighter, but even so pre-tax profits of £137 million would only see net earnings at 16.4p a share, to put the shares on a prospective rating of 9.4.



Progressive: David Hopkinson (front), Harrisons & Crosfield chairman, George Paul (left), chief executive, and Bill Turcan, finance director

The results to watch for are those for end-December, 1991. Meanwhile the shares, like a Christmas pudding, should be tucked away in a dark cupboard and left to mature.

## Wilson (Connolly)

Wilson (Connolly) is about as stable as it is possible for any housebuilder to be. In a year

when several of its competitors sank into receivership, Wilson still managed to notch up further, albeit modest, progress. Pre-tax profits edged 2 per cent ahead to £54.2 million and earnings per share rose by 3 per cent to 19.6p, maintaining a 15-year record of continuous growth.

That said, Wilson did suffer in what it describes as the worst housing market since its flotation 25 years ago.

It sold only 1,800 houses, 300 fewer than in 1988. And despite a rise in the average price from £59,000 to £64,500, margins also narrowed, leaving profits from housebuilding 18 per cent lower at £35.5 million. The gap was made up by a nearly doubled contribution from property, up from £9 million to £16.7 million, and quadrupled profits of £2 million from construction.

Although Wilson's housing side is currently in slightly better shape than it was 12 months ago, the company gives a warning that 1990 will not be an easy year. The results will be more difficult to forecast than usual and property profits will be lower in the first half than they were in 1989.

Nevertheless, analysts still expect only a slight setback to profits of £52.5 million and earnings just a shade lower at 19p this time. As 1989 dividends, up 15 per cent at 3.45p, were more than five times covered by earnings, there could well be scope for a higher payout too.

At 15p, the shares are on a prospective p/e ratio of 8, which is quite a premium to other housebuilders.

With net debts at only 35 per cent of shareholders' funds, Wilson will have no problem in picking up land jettisoned by more troubled companies at advantageous prices. The shares are an excellent long term investment and will be well worth buying once the market turns.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Free share service for most Argos holders

BAT shareholders who receive fewer than 500 shares in Argos when the company is demerged this week are being given the chance to sell their shares. Of the 142,500 shareholders in Argos, 107,000 will have less than 500 shares which means that 75 per cent of shareholders will own less than 10 per cent of the company.

Some 57,000 shareholders in Argos will hold less than 200 shares, meaning that 40 per cent will own only 2 per cent. With minimum dealing costs of £20 to £25, the expense for small shareholders can be quite high compared with sale proceeds. Shareholders can make use of the free dealing service, which has been arranged by Argos's broker, Rowe & Pitman, until 3 pm on May 4.

### Sherwood lifts BZW board dividend

SHERWOOD Group, the lingerie and lace concern, is raising its final dividend from 3.9p to 5.2p making 7.5p (5.5p) a share. It reported pre-tax profits of £8.13 million (£6.56 million) for the year ended December. The higher issued capital meant net earnings were lower at 35.8p (38p) a share. Turnover was £74.3 million (£47.6 million) and orders for the garments division are stronger.

### BZW board paid £5.53m

THE top 11 directors at Barclays de Zoete Wedd shared a payout of £4 million last year, an increase of 58 per cent from 1988. The highest-paid director, believed to be Mr David Bond, the chief executive, earned £487,000, up 52 per cent, while none of his colleagues made less than £245,000. The total boardroom wage bill was £5.53 million, up a third. Pre-tax profits rose by 64 per cent to £54.3 million.

### Reuters starts service

REUTERS Holdings has launched Money 2000, an information service for the 24-hour global market in foreign exchange and money. The screen service displays rates contributed by banks and brokers in 82 countries and quotations for leading instruments in financial futures and options markets.

Subscribers contribute prices and information to Reuters, and the most recent are shown on multi-contributor and composite displays. Spot and forward rates are inserted on a 24-hour basis for about 120 currencies, as well as for gold and silver. The service also includes Eurodeposit information.

### Jaguar sales in US record

JAGUAR, the maker of luxurious cars, sold a record 4,744 in the US in the first quarter of 1990. This was 261 more than in 1989 and 92 more than in 1986, the previous record first quarter. The Coventry company said it was on course to sell 20,000 cars in the US, its biggest market. It was a recent falling away in US sales that led to Jaguar's decreased profits and the need for a link with Ford.

### Smurfit deal called off

JEFFERSON Smurfit Group and Waste Management Inc of the US will not form a proposed joint venture to process and market recycled paper. Smurfit/WMI Recycling Company was expected to have been the world's largest paper-recycling company. The companies said that subject to market conditions they expected to continue paper sale and brokerage transactions.

## SUN ALLIANCE

RESULTS FOR 1989

The unaudited Group results for 1989 are as follows:

	1989 £m	1988 £m
Premium income —		
General insurance	2,475.3	2,252.2
Long-term insurance	810.6	859.6
	3,285.9	3,111.8
General insurance underwriting result	(63.7)	58.7
Long-term insurance profits	40.5	34.0
Investment and other income	341.8	279.7
Profit before taxation	318.6	372.4
Taxation	90.9	110.3
Profit after taxation	227.7	262.1
Minority interests	12.3	10.4
Profit attributable to shareholders	215.4	251.7
Dividend	99.0	80.9
Profit retained	116.4	170.8
Earnings per share	27.3p	31.9p
Dividend per share	12.5p	10.25p

Note: earnings and dividend per share for 1988 have been restated to reflect the four for one share exchange on 1st July, 1989.

### TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF GENERAL INSURANCE RESULTS

	1989		1988	
	Premium income £m	Underwriting result £m	Premium income £m	Underwriting result £m
United Kingdom*	1,569.0	1.2	1,428.0	88.1
Europe	365.3	(22.2)	295.0	(9.7)
USA*	262.7	(6.2)	228.3	(1.8)
Canada	63.7	(5.2)	130.9	(4.2)
Australia	109.7	(21.5)	70.7	(2.9)
Other overseas	104.9	(9.8)	99.3	(10.8)
	2,475.3	(63.7)	2,252.2	58.7

\*including discontinued reinsurance business previously reported in "Other overseas"

### SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

The Group's net assets increased by £834m to £2,937m (37.1p per share) at 31st December, 1989, excluding the value of long-term business. The solvency margin was 119% (1988 — 93%).

### DIVIDEND

The Directors recommend a final dividend payable on 2nd July, 1990 of 8.0p per share making a total dividend for the year of 12.5p per share — an increase of 22%. The scrip dividend alternative will again be offered to shareholders.

4th April, 1990

The above statement is a summary of the year's results. The full audited Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 23rd April, 1990 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 16th May, 1990.

Sun Alliance Group plc

Head Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane London EC2N 2AB

## MMC clears British Steel's £330m takeover of Walker

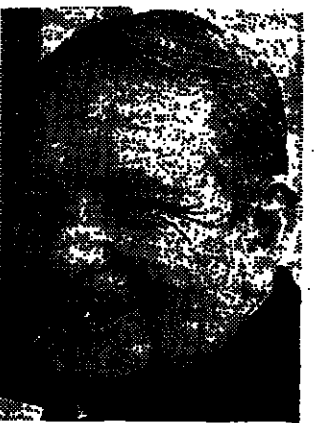
By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has cleared British Steel's agreed £330 million bid for C Walker & Sons, the biggest steel stockholder in Britain.

But it is still waiting for clearance from the European Commission because the Treaty of Paris, drawn up by the European Coal and Steel Community, covers about 80 per cent of the products involved in the bid.

Expectations are that British Steel, led by Sir Robert Scholey, the chairman, will also be given the go-ahead by Brussels whose decision is due shortly, probably this month.

The purchase of Walker, its biggest customer, would be British Steel's first big acquisition since privatization. But it has been stalking other



Sir Robert: Bid strategy

quarry on the Continent in line with the Scholey strategy of expansion in Europe, especially in products where value can be added.

Talks are still going on with Klöckner-Werke of West Germany on the possible ac-

quisition of its Maunstedt division which produces special sections and welded tube. Such a deal is likely to be worth at least £75 million.

There have been reports so far unconfirmed by British Steel, that it has also made a bid approach to the Jose Maria Arestain group, Spain's leading producer of structural section steel.

Arestain is likely to command a price of at least £250 million because there are reportedly a number of suitors in the wings for the family-run enterprise.

The MMC report said there was a unanimous decision that the takeover of Walker would not be against the public interest in the "non-Paris" products at which it looked. These included reinforcement steels, bright bar, specialist profiles and tubes,

and a limited number of strip mill products.

The MMC especially examined the tube sector where British Steel and Walker together would account for 25 per cent of all stockholder sales, and structural hollow sections where they would hold a 43 per cent market share. But with strong demand for hollow sections, competition has increased and British Steel's share of producer sales and Walker's of stockholder sales have both declined.

The deal would give British Steel 35 per cent of the British steel stockholding market. But there is a much lower percentage than exists in some continental countries like West Germany and France.

Walker is privately owned, and run by two brothers, Messrs Jack and Fred Walker,

## Loan marketing under scrutiny

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE chairman of the Finance Houses Association has ordered a review of its members' marketing practices after the Government's attack on unsolicited mailing by leading institutions.

In his last annual statement as chairman, Mr John Hoddell said: "While these comments were not primarily aimed at our members we shall be watching closely the developments of the banks' code of practice and if necessary adjust our own."

The FHA is asking its members to ensure that they take note of its voluntary code of practice. This asks them to "market responsibly and prudently" and "ensure that adverts are fair and reasonable."

although it does not forbid unsolicited mailshots.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, gave a warning, in the Budget, to leading institutions to review their unsolicited mailing operations.

Mr Hoddell has also said that Britain's lenders face a difficult year unless interest rates fall substantially. The FHA's figures show that lending to borrowers grew by 1 per cent to £11.3 billion in the third quarter of last year. Property lending fell by £1 billion to £1.4 billion. Business lending, however, grew 21 per cent to £6.1 billion.

Mr Hoddell is being replaced as chairman by Mr Bob Wyatt, chief executive of Forward Trust.

## Telecomputing in accounts 'error'

By Melinda Wittstock

THE shareholders in Telecomputing have been sent a second version of its annual reports and accounts. The USM-quoted computer software group last week fell into a £770,000 pre-tax loss mainly as a result of a change in its accounting policy by the new management.

Due to what the company described as an "administrative error," the original accounts had been sent out last week with the approval but without the signature of Touche Ross, its accountants.

The only change made to the accounts concerns liabilities arising from a court hearing on March 29, the afternoon the original accounts were sent out, forcing

Telecomputing to cover all the costs associated with its injunction against Mr Bernard Panton, the founder and former chairman of Telecomputing.

The total liability, including Telecomputing's own costs, will not exceed £55,000, a sum which the company said was "immaterial."

The court also ordered an inquiry into damages for Mr Panton, who resigned from Telecomputing last November when Farnal Holdings, the computer company, took a 29.8 per cent stake.

Telecomputing's legal advisers have told it that Mr Panton has no grounds to claim for damages as a result of the injunction.

## 'Shocked' company faces total production stoppage

By Melinda Wittstock

CRYSTAL workers at Waterford Wedgwood's Irish plant have dealt the troubled company another blow by voting to stage an all-out strike, starting this morning, in protest over cost-cutting plans.

Waterford Wedgwood, which has been locked in battle with its 2,000 crystal workers for more than three months over much-needed measures to reduce costs, said yesterday it was "shocked and disappointed at the unwarranted reaction of the workers."

A last-minute formal meeting between management and the union yesterday afternoon failed to avert the unofficial strike, which is in protest over management plans to introduce longer working hours without pay, raise the retirement

age and stop the "bonanza payment" system for its 500 glass cutters.

The strike, which is certain to result in total production stoppage, comes nine months after the imposition of a two-year wage freeze and a temporary ending of company pension contributions.

The company, which last month fell into losses of £120.6 million (£19.9 million) for 1989, compared with a last-time £12.7 million pre-tax profit, said "urgent action" was needed to keep the troubled crystal business "viable" and "ultimately save jobs."

Mr Tony O'Reilly, the Irish-born chairman of HJ Heinz, which with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, took a 29.9 per cent stake in the ailing company last month, would not comment on the strike developments.

But Fitzwilliam, his private holding company, said it remains confident in the Waterford management.

Mr Paddy Byrne, the chief executive, and Mr Howard Kiffin, the chairman, were "away on business" yesterday.

Both Fitzwilliam and Morgan Stanley said at the time of the partial bid that it would take two to three years to complete the recovery process, with Waterford needing to eradicate production bottlenecks by training more glass blowers and cutters. Many were laid off in a redundancy package three years ago.

Waterford plans to cut costs by £10 million on an annualized basis, while also concentrating on product development and marketing activities in Britain and US. Shares fell 1p to 1.10p.



# Tilbury beats its own forecasts with £27.5m

By Jeremy Andrews

TILBURY Group, the builder and property developer, has reported £27.5 million pre-tax profits for the year to December — about £500,000 more than it forecast last summer when fighting off Lilley's £137 million hostile bid.

Despite the gloom surrounding the construction sector, Mr Mike Bottjer, Tilbury's managing director, said trading in the current year had made a promising start.

Operating profits from construction rose from £5.66 million to £8.55 million, about £1 million more than had been indicated at the time of the bid. However, the bulk of the £1.1 million benefit of applying SSAP 24 — the new accounting standard on pensions — occurred in this division, which explained most of the difference. The contribution from property and housebuilding rose from £7.77 million to £17.1 million, in line with the forecast.

Interest on Tilbury's cash pile was £700,000 better than anticipated at £1.8 million and earnings per share were up 88 per cent at 91.9p — 1.5p higher than forecast. The final dividend — up 8.1p at 22p — was as promised, leaving the total 94 per cent ahead at 32p.

Mr Bottjer said that he had had no discussions with either Lilley or with John Gove, the fund manager, which have respectively held 29.9 per cent and 14.1 per cent of the equity since the bid fell through. Mr Bottjer said that he was not looking over his shoulder all the time.

Mr Bottjer said Tilbury had held talks with Holzmann, the German construction group, about possible joint ventures. It was "a sensible company with sensible strategies which Tilbury knew."

He would not comment on Press speculation that he was trying to persuade Holzmann to make Lilley an offer for its stake.

Despite the uncertain market conditions, Tilbury said its



Earth-moving: Mike Bottjer reports Tilbury's forecast-topping £27.5 million profit

strengths in the civil engineering and specialist contracting fields, as well as its Scottish-based housebuilding activities and the opportunities offered by its property development

programme, ensured it was well placed for the future.

Disagreement over the value of a site at Linwood, bought for only £6.1 million last year, lay behind Lilley's

unwillingness to raise the terms sufficiently to ensure the success of its bid. However, Tilbury has already sold 15 acres, to be used by Asda, for £11 million.

## Brands exchange by food groups

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

DALGETY, the Homepride and Spillers foods and agribusiness group, is swapping its Memory Lane Cakes division for the Greens baking mix and Hammonds sauce businesses of Grand Metropolitan Foods Europe (GMFE), part of the Grand Metropolitan group.

Dalgety is paying GMFE a cash adjustment of about £2.5 million in taking on Greens and Hammonds, which GMFE acquired when Grand-Met purchased Pillsbury.

Both sides say they are gaining. GMFE's chief executive, Mr Mike Hodgkinson, reckons that with Memory Lane his cakes business will be vying to be number one in Europe with RHM, whose leading brand is Mr Kipling. In the UK alone RHM is clear market leader with Lyons, part of Allied Lyons, at number two and GMFE third.

GMFE's existing cakes and frozen gâteaux business includes Flour de Lys and Kayens in the UK, Goldstein in Germany and France's Brossard, the Continent's leading brand. To the existing GMFE cake turnover of about £145 million will be added Memory Lane's £35 million.

Memory Lane Cakes has factories at Cardiff and Warrington which as well as turning out traditional cakes produce chilled items, such as cream gateaux, for retailers like Marks and Spencer.

Greens, with an annual turnover of £19 million, provides Dalgety with the market leader in pre-packed baking mixes. Its Homepride division has flour and mixes whose brands include Pearce Duff, Granny Smith and Royal.

The mixes market has been shrinking in volume but with product innovation has been growing in value by about 4 per cent a year.

There is a range of Homepride casserole sauces but Hammonds will be Dalgety's first entry into the expanding table sauce market, worth about £120 million a year and growing at about 5 per cent annually.

Hammonds has its strong brand presence in the North of England, being based, like Greens, in Yorkshire. But it is also a supplier to the catering trade and produces own-label ranges.

Mr Maurice Warren, Dalgety's chief executive, said: "We look to growing the Hammonds brand which brings us a secure entry into the table sauces market."

## Two minutes' silence for the Severn Bridge

A welcome hush has fallen over the affairs of Eurotunnel. It may be that Alastair Morton, the chief executive, has taken a well-deserved holiday from his normal routine of hyper-activity. Perhaps the five-a-side contractors have tricked him into the hole and he has yet to find a way out. Possibly, the two sides may even have decided that megaphone negotiation is hardly the way to inspire confidence in the most important civil engineering project being undertaken this side of the millenary. Maybe everybody has a sore throat.

Whatever the reason, the hush has descended at exactly the right moment for Cecil Parkinson, Transport Secretary. Among a package of ideas for privately funded roads yesterday, he slipped in the news that the second Severn Bridge is to be built by the Anglo-French consortium Laing/GTM Entrepote. The short list was already down to two and the all-British team of Trafalgar House and BICC was left in the profitless position of runner-up. It would be hard to imagine a non-French consortium being awarded a similar contract in France, but that is the problem of the French, not ours.

Much has been learned from the mistakes of the structure of the Channel tunnel. The basic problem, which has led to all the blood and thunder, is that on one side were the builders, the 10 contractors, five British, five French, who devised the project. Their only payoff is the profit they can make from construction, for the fruits of operation fall to Eurotunnel, which in turn wants the project built as cheaply as possible.

## Ashcroft's puzzling ploy

When it comes to muddying waters, Michael Ashcroft has few peers. The more he does, and says, the less the market appears to understand. His latest ruse, aimed at refinancing the larger slice of his £160 million investment in BAA, was greeted with a mixture of disappointment and bewilderment.

Disappointment, reflected in a 19p drop in the BAA share price, for those punters who have piled into BAA in the hope that Ashcroft's manoeuvres would lead to some early showdown, and bewilderment by just about everyone else.

Typically, the ADT statement is terse. The group, it says, will seek to raise £100 million through preference shares that will convert into BAA shares. Precise terms may not be known until next week, but the stock is likely to carry a coupon of about 8 per cent, and convert at a premium of 16 to 19 per cent.

It is not a novel move. Effectively ADT cedes its right to any premium in the BAA share price in return for a significant reduction in its own carrying costs. At the same time, as Ashcroft would say, all ADT's options are open. Among those options are further

The new infrastructure projects are all on the BOOT principle — build, own, operate, transfer (at the end of the concession) — which gets away from that fundamental conflict.

Three sets of tender documents were issued yesterday to the successful pre-bidders for the Birmingham Northern Relief Road where a decision is expected later this year. Also up for competition is a new road between Birmingham and Manchester and a clutch of other projects. There is a great deal of interest in the private sector in building privately financed roads and the civil engineering industry will be licking its lips at the new projects potentially on offer. One potential disincentive is being removed, in that where a scheme which wins a competition and is endorsed as being in the public interest subsequently fails to gain approval after the public inquiry, the promoter will be entitled to compensation related to its abortive costs.

The next stage of development of privately funded infrastructure industry, which is still in its infancy, will be greater involvement of companies likely to use the projects: the road transport industry in roads and bridges, for instance. Ultimately, the key to the success of the projects will be in their management and the regulatory environment under which prices and standards are set and the level of interest rates under which the funding takes place. And on that basis, what are bankable propositions with base rates at 15 per cent should turn into gold mines when rates retreat to more modest levels.

share purchases, and yesterday's dip in the BAA price improves Ashcroft's chances of lifting his stake — now 45 million shares, or 9 per cent — above the 10 per cent he would need to requisition a meeting of BAA shareholders.

Kind words about BAA's performance are more scarce than Ashcroft's friends in the City, but the management benefits from the protection of the Government's golden share, and, more infuriating to Ashcroft, the company's own articles of association, which prevent any investor holding more than 15 per cent of the equity. It is this hurdle ADT needs to overturn, before it sets to work on Mr Parkinson at the Department of Transport.

The size of the ADT investment speaks for Ashcroft's commitment to this cause. Such, however, is his perception in the City that it is hard to resist the thought that his proposals would stand a better chance if promoted by almost anyone other than ADT — a point that appeared to be underlined as his brokers began trying to get the issue away last night.

David Brewerton

## Solicitor charged under Financial Services Act

By Our City Staff

POLICE investigating sudden movements in the share price of Williams Holdings, last November, yesterday charged Mr Martin Charles Isaacs, a solicitor, with an offence under Section 47 of the Financial Services Act.

Mr Isaacs, aged 33, of 19 Marlborough Hill, north west London, has been bailed to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on April 25.

Until two months ago Mr Isaacs worked as a partner with Walsh Lawson Fireman,

a firm of solicitors based in Regent Street, central London.

Under Section 47 it is an offence to make false statements which may influence share prices.

Mr Isaacs is charged that on or before December 15, 1989, he enacted or engaged in a course of conduct which created a false or misleading impression as to the market in, or value of, an investment thereby inducing any person to acquire, dispose, subscribe or underwrite this investment.

## Cluff to pay maiden 1p and obtain full listing

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

CLUFF Resources, the Africa-orientated gold mining and exploration group, is paying a maiden dividend of 1p a share and is to graduate from the USM to a full stock exchange listing.

Pre-tax profits for 1989 were £2 million (£1.19 million) on a turnover of £16.75 million (£6.09 million). Gold production from Zimbabwe rose from 23,200 ounces to 70,200 ounces.

Cluff is examining diamond prospects in Australia, plat-

inum group metals potential in Zimbabwe, and is additionally involved in gold mining operations and prospecting in Spain and Ghana.

Other operations include oil and gas interests in Britain, Denmark and Holland.

Cluff's 1990 gold production from Zimbabwe is expected to be 80,000 ounces. A £1 change in the world gold price has an £80,000 impact on Cluff's profits line.

The shares traded 1p lower at 92p.

## End of the game for Serif Cowells

By Gillian Bowditch

The craze for Trivial Pursuit seems to be over. Pre-tax profits at Serif Cowells, which makes the board game, fell from £6.32 million to £3.66 million last year on sales of £63.6 million, down from £67.5 million. Earnings per share fell from 16.9p to 9.4p and the dividend for the year has been cut from 6p to 3.5p.

There was an extraordinary debit of £1.68 million due to the closure of the book and colour division at WS Cowell, the printing business, which lost £590,000 last year.

Mr Alan Brooker, chairman, said Serif had given warning a year ago that the sales and profitability of Trivial Pursuit would decline significantly in 1989, and al-

though this was so, it had not been as bad as predicted.

The company shipped more than 2 million Trivial Pursuit games last year and is finalising contracts to manufacture the game for the next few years. It does not intend to continue marketing the game.

Serif sold 1.25 million games of Pictionary last year and has gained the British li-

cence for Nintendo video games.

Spottiswoode Ballantyne, the printing company acquired in May, performed above expectations. But it was a difficult year for Kemp, the publishing business, which is now beginning to show positive results.

The shares fell 4p to 96p on the USM.

## The fax and the fiction

ONE of the most pathetic attempts at a share price ramp since someone in a south London Post Office tried to persuade me the Japanese were buying British Steel lands on my desk. Addressed to the "Financial Editor" (sic) of *The Times*, and sent through on someone's cheap Amstrad home fax machine, it claims to give the inside track on a forthcoming bid from Mel Morris's West Industries — market capitalization less than £6.5 million — for Mecca Leisure, valued at £224 million although falling fast after Tuesday's lousy figures. The link is claimed to be Robert Earl, a shareholder in West and in Mecca and in charge of the latter's US operations. This "junk fax" is riddled with the usual misconceptions and hysterical accusations. Assuming it went elsewhere — and these things almost always do — the market has given it pretty short shrift, as Mecca shares dropped another 5p to 72p. Good thing, too.

## Ill advised

THE Australian approach to first aid: the latest diary from ANZ McCaughan contains a useful section at the back on medical emergencies. "The following are universally practised procedures for the initial treatment of some common injuries and ailments," it says. "Collapse: Shake the victim and shout, 'Are you all right?'"

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Return to sender

MR DAVID Dome, chairman of Argos, is about to sit right down and write himself a letter. Unlike the chap in the song he is not pining for lost love but as a BAT small shareholder he is about to find himself the recipient of fewer than 500 Argos shares when the demerger of Argos from BAT is finalized this week. As

such he is eligible for the BAT facility to sell the shares free of commission and will be writing to himself to tell himself so. He is on safe ground as long as he does not make any recommendation to himself about whether or not to hang on to the shares. If he gave himself bad advice he could end up suing himself.

## Abbey returns

ALL those frustrated almost-shareholders who were grinding their teeth at the Abbey National's "Abbey Endings" television advertisement produced to reinforce warm feelings for the Abbey after last summer's flotation will be

pleased to know that the ad, as opposed to the arrangements for the float, has won an award. The black and white commercial featured a group of children and Lionel Bart's sentimental theme and was voted the "Best Theme from a TV/Radio Commercial" in the Ivor Novello Awards, presented annually by the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors. Such was the ill feeling at the failure to deliver the share certificates on time that the Abbey had to repeat the campaign in the autumn when most shareholders had received replacement certificates. It will get another airing this weekend to celebrate the award — presumably paid for from the £15 million which the Abbey received in compensation from Lloyds Bank's Registrars for their part in mishandling the issue.

● SIGN in a Hampstead corner shop: "Never to be repeated — Easter eggs at pre-politax prices."



"Shall we call him Liffelton or Liffeliffe?"

## Putting up shutters

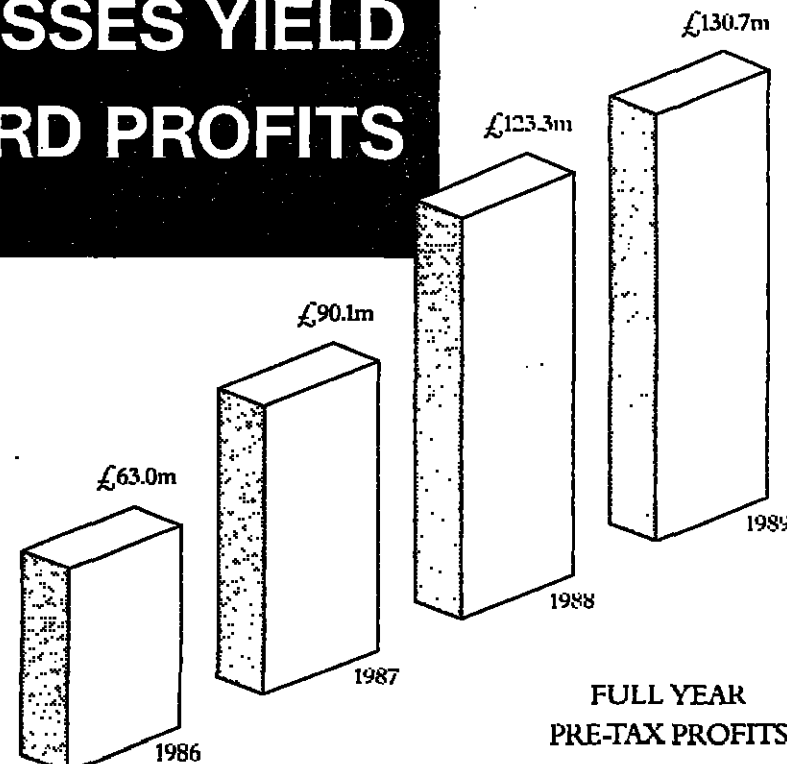
FUNNY bunch, Sun Alliance. This column has occasionally pointed out the many silly things company chairmen will do to get their pictures in the newspapers. But this composite insurer is quite the opposite. Requests for photos of Roger Neville, the chief executive, or Henry Lambert, the chairman, were stonewalled yesterday as the group published a perfectly respectable set of results. "There's no problem — it's not something we do as a matter of course," said Arthur Hayes, general manager responsible for planning and development. Why not? "I haven't really thought about it — I thought it was only the (and here he named a certain downmarket newspaper) or the tabloids who were worried about pictures."

## Stakes building

AS YOU place your bets on the Grand National this Saturday, spare a thought for Richard Heyman, director of Morgan Grenfell's corporate finance arm, who will be jumping the same fences at Aintree the day before. Richard is entering the amateur Foxhunter Stakes on his horse Copper Fastener, former owner the Duchess of Westminster, also at one time owner of Arkle. Richard says that with a third and a second so far this year, the charts point only one way. But he concedes his mount is still a rank outsider.

Martin Waller

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## STOCK MARKET

## Selling knocks Queensway

SHARES in Lowndes Queensway hit a low as the sorry plight of the furniture retailer continued. The price lost another 1/2p to 2 1/2p.

Dealers reported selling of the shares, which has forced market-makers into further defensive mark-downs. This has made it difficult for those investors who took up February's £35 million rights issue at 5p a share to sell stock. The spread — the difference between the bid and offer price — is now 1p. The best which the sellers could hope to obtain last night was 2 1/2p a share, less than half the rights issue price.

Lowndes was a buyout from Harris Queensway in 1988. The shares were floated at 100p but then fell sharply as the rise in interest rates hit consumer spending and took its toll of profits.

In an attempt to stop the rot, the group arranged an £18.5 million rights issue last October at 20p a share and a further issue at 5p in February. The price has continued to lose ground ever since. The company says trading remains tough with sales below budget. But talk of a 50 per cent drop in sales is thought unlikely. Figures next month are expected to make grim reading.

The rest of the equity market made a firm start, encouraged by the overnight rally on Wall Street. But rises were not held with prices drifting on lack of follow-through and worries that Tokyo would suffer another 1,000-point fall today. The FT-SE 100 index ended 9.1

down at 2,231.6 with the turnover of 305 million shares boosted by bed-and-breakfast deals to establish year-end tax losses. The FT index of 30 shares shed 11.6 at 1,749.7.

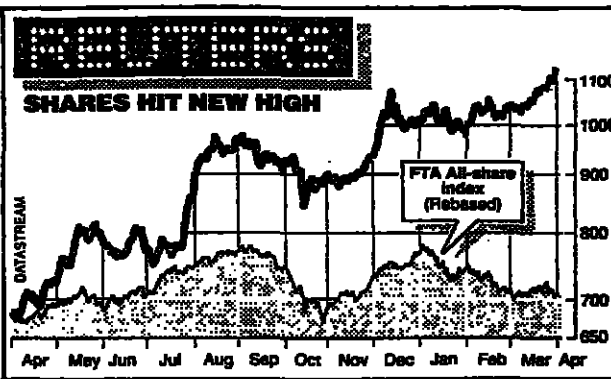
The fall in the FT-SE 100 might have been greater but for heavy trading in the futures market. The June contract touched 2,280 at one stage. Government securities took their cue from a stronger pound, sporting gains of up to 1/4p at the longer end.

Among the leaders, SmithKline Beecham, which sold its Bovril, Marmite and Ambrosia food brands for £157 million this week, firmed 1 1/2p to 503 1/2p. Analysts and fund managers complained that the company had little new to say at yesterday's presentation.

BAA Group fell 19p to 388p, worried that Mr Michael Ashcroft's ADT has

Dealers are due to start tomorrow in Argos which is being floated off by BAT Industries. Last night, dealers were talking of an opening price of up to 210p. But London will have to absorb at least 4 per cent of the shares which belong to ADR holders in the US who are forced sellers.

stopped adding to its holding. He already has a 9 per cent stake, worth £150 million, and has decided to launch a £100 million bond, convertible into BAA shares. Dealers say the proceeds will help to ease the financing costs of ADT's original stake.



The move has already received the thumbs-down from a number of institutions. ADT has been arguing that BAA's articles of association be altered to allow shareholders to own a maximum of 15 per cent of the company.

Mecca Leisure continued to reel from Tuesday's disappointing figures and news of soaring debts, ending a further 7p lower at 70p — a two-day loss of 40p.

AB Electronics slipped 1p to 261p after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits from £7 million to £5.3 million. The group plans to shed 200 jobs.

Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, enjoyed another bout of institutional support after the start of dealings on Wall Street, climbing 16p to £11.59 following the launch of its Money 2000 screen-based trading system, designed for use on the world's foreign exchange markets.

The group gave a presentation for analysts in the City on

Tuesday night and it seems to have been well received. The profits from the new system are expected to start flowing through within a matter of months. But London's bullish stance will add to the problems of New York traders who are believed to have gone short of 12 million Reuters

Dealers reported demand for Saatchi & Saatchi, the troubled advertising agency. Mr Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive, was said to have met Warren Securities to outline his plans. Judging by the price, unchanged at 127p, the meeting was unremarkable.

shares last month in the hope of buying them back cheaper. Merrill Lynch, the US securities house, is believed to have awarded the shares a triple-A rating following the presentation.

Hickson International, the chemicals group, fell 12p to

197p as bid hopes evaporated following the disposal of Mr Jack Jickell's 13 per cent stake. The placing was handled by Smith New Court, the broker, and the stake was almost four times oversubscribed.

It has been a busy time lately for Smith, one of the few publicly quoted securities houses, which this week placed the Hong Kong government's remaining 3.7 per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom, 58 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, down 7p at 520p. The Smith share closed last night 7p higher at 86p.

Westminster & Country Properties leapt 65p to 170p on the news of a boardroom reshuffle and the sale of a big stake in the company. Members of the controlling Parkes family have sold 995,000 shares, or 29.9 per cent, at 205p each. Part of the holding has been picked up by two former Parkes directors, Mr Robert Breare and Mr Jeremy Priestley, who have been appointed to the board.

Shares in Rex Williams, the troubled electronics company headed by the boxing promoter Mr Frank Warren, were suspended at 10p, pending an announcement. The shares have been under a cloud since Mr Warren was shot last year.

Courtwell, the clothing group, fell 1/2p to 11p. The company is being forced to write down the value of many of the assets of Leisure Investments and to make substantial provisions for losses and reorganization costs.

Michael Clark

## WORLD MARKETS

## Dow up in opening dealings

THE Dow Jones industrial average rose by 6 points to 2,742.71 in early trading. Shares were narrowly mixed with blue chips slightly ahead but the broad market little changed. Profit-taking cooled Tuesday's 36-point rally. Falling and rising shares were about evenly matched.

Philip Morris was top of the list of active shares, rising 1/4 to 41. Some other briskly-traded shares were American Express, up 1/2 to 26 1/2, General Electric, up 1/2 to 65 1/2, and Upjohn Co, ahead 1/2 to 38 1/2.

Yokoyama — The Nikkei index lost 316.78 points, or 1.10 per cent, at 28,442.54. Prices closed down but off their lows as bearish nerves affected the market.

Fears that some groups speculating in the market are facing financial difficulties aggravated a general uneasiness that the market has not touched bottom. Prices of companies in which they are believed to have invested fell. Frankfurt — The DAX index closed 5.08 lower at 1,963.25.

Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index slid 1.57 to 2,960.88. The broadly-based Hong Kong index ended 0.47 down at 1,946.62.

Sydney — The All-Ordinary index finished 11.4 up at 1,516.8.

Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index fell 12.91 to 1,543.01. (Reuters)

Apr 4 midday	Apr 3 close	Apr 4 midday	Apr 3 close	Apr 4 midday	Apr 3 close
Abbott Lab	57 1/2	57	57	57 1/2	57 1/2
Admiral	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Alcan	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
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Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa Pac	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2
Alcoa World	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21 1/2	21



## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Init
1	WPP	Paper, Print, Adv	WPP
2	LASMO (sa)	Oil/Gas	LAS
3	Black & Veatch	Drainage, Sewers	BV
4	Kwik Save	Food	KS
5	Reynolds	Industrial L-R	RYN
6	Typetool	Transport	TY
7	Anglo TV 'A'	Leisure	ATV
8	William Hays (sa)	Industrial S-Z	WH
9	Kodak	Electronics	KOD
10	Tomkins	Industrial S-Z	TK
11	Colson	Oil/Gas	COL
12	Clarkson (B)	Transport	CH
13	Cummins	Property	CUM
14	Marshall Comm (sa)	Newspapers, Pub	MO
15	Liner	Facilities	LI
16	Br Aerospace (sa)	Motors, Aircraft	BA
17	TNT	Transport	TNT
18	Brierley Inv	Industrial A-D	BR
19	Lea	Transport	LE
20	Vodafone	Industrial S-Z	VO
21	Colony	Building Roads	CO
22	Mellins	Industrial L-R	ME
23	RTV Group	Leisure	RTV
24	Low Group	Paper, Print, Adv	LG
25	Savoy Hotels 'A'	Hotels, Caterers	SH
26	Worcester	Industrial S-Z	WO
27	Auto Sec	Electronics	AS
28	Seavils	Property	SE
29	TI (sa)	Industrial S-Z	TI
30	McLeod Russel	Industrial L-R	MR
31	Stanley	Building Roads	ST
32	Unilever	Electronics	UN
33	Bradstreet	Industrial A-D	BR
34	Wilkes (James)	Industrial S-Z	WJ
35	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D	CO
36	Central TV	Leisure	CT
37	IMI (sa)	Industrial E-K	IM
38	Citygrove	Property	CG
39	Strong & Fisher	Shoes, Leather	SF
40	Stern Water	Water	SW
41	Shafbury	Property	SH
42	Charles (B)	Industrial A-D	CH
43	Southend Prop	Property	SP
44	BAT (sa)	Tobacco	BA
© Times Newspapers Ltd		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

Two people shared yesterday's £6,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. They were Mr Kenneth New from Bromley in Kent, and Miss Sally Johnson from Wimbledon in south London.

BRITISH FUNDS	
1st	2nd
100	100

SHORTS Under Two Years	
1st	2nd
100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
1st	2nd
100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
1st	2nd
100	100

UNDATED	
1st	2nd
100	100

INDEX-LINKED	
1st	2nd
100	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP	
1st	2nd
100	100

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Small decline

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings end tomorrow. Contango day April 9. Settlement day April 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

1989		1988		1987		1986		1985		1984		1983		1982		1981		1980		1979		1978		1977		1976		1975		1974		1973		1972		1971		1970		1969		1968		1967		1966		1965		1964		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		1950		1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940		1939		1938		1937		1936		1935		1934		1933		1932		1931		1930		1929		1928		1927		1926		1925		1924		1923		1922		1921		1920		1919		1918		1917		1916		1915		1914		1913		1912		1911		1910		1909		1908		1907		1906		1905		1904		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899		1898		1897		1896		1895		1894		1893		1892		1891		1890		1889		1888		1887		1886		1885		1884		1883		1882		1881		1880		1879		1878		1877		1876		1875		1874		1873		1872		1871		1870		1869		1868		1867		1866		1865		1864		1863		1862		1861		1860		1859		1858		1857		1856		1855		1854		1853		1852		1851		1850		1849		1848		1847		1846		1845		1844		1843		1842		1841		1840		1839		1838		1837		1836		1835		1834		1833		1832		1831		1830		1829		1828		1827		1826		1825		1824		1823		1822		1821		1820		1819		1818		1817		1816		1815		1814		1813		1812		1811		1810		1809		1808		1807		1806		1805		1804		1803		1802		1801		1800		1799		1798		1797		1796		1795		1794		1793		1792		1791		1790		1789		1788		1787		1786		1785		1784		1783		1782		1781		1780		1779		1778		1777		1776		1775		1774		1773		1772		1771		1770		1769		1768		1767		1766		1765		1764		1763		1762		1761		1760		1759		1758		1757		1756		1755		1754		1753		1752		1751		1750		1749		1748		1747		1746		1745		1744		1743		1742		1741		1740		1739		1738		1737		1736		1735		1734		1733		1732		1731		1730		1729		1728		1727		1726		1725		1724		1723		1722		1721		1720		1719		1718		1717		1716		1715		1714		1713		1712		1711		1710		1709		1708		1707		1706		1705		1704		1703		1702		1701		1700		1699		1698		1697		1696		1695		1694		1693		1692		1691		1690		1689		1688		1687		1686		1685		1684		1683		1682		1681		1680		1679		1678		1677		1676		1675		1674		1673		1672		1671		1670		1669		1668		1667		1666		1665		1664		1663		1662		1661		1660		1659		1658		1657		1656		1655		1654		1653		1652		1651		1650		1649		1648		1647		1646		1645		1644		1643		1642		1641		1640		1639		1638		1637		1636		1635		1634		1633		1632		1631		1630		1629		1628		1627		1626		1625		1624		1623		1622		1621		1620		1619		1618		1617		1616		1615		1614		1613		1612		1611		1610		1609		1608		1607		1606		1605		1604		1603		1602		1601		1600		1599		1598		1597		1596		1595		1594		1593		1592		1591		1590		1589		1588		1587		1586		1585		1584		1583		1582		1581		1580		1579		1578		1577		1576		1575		1574		1573		1572		1571		1570		1569		1568		1567		1566		1565		1564		1563		1562		1561		1560		1559		1558		1557		1556		1555		1554		1553		1552		1551		1550		1549		1548		1547		1546		1545		1544		1543		1542		1541		1540		1539		1538		1537		1536		1535		1534		1533		1532		1531		1530		1529		1528		1527		1526		1525		1524		1523		1522		1521		1520		1519		1518		1517		1516		1515		1514		1513		1512		1511		1510		1509		1508		1507		1506		1505		1504		1503		1502		1501		1500		1499		1498		1497		1496		1495		1494		1493		1492		1491		1490		1489		1488		1487		1486		1485		1484		1483		1482		1481		1480		1479		1478		1477		1476		1475		1474		1473		1472		1471		1470		1469		1468		1467		1466		1465		1464		1463		1462		1461		1460		1459		1458		1457		1456		1455		1454		1453		1452		1451		1450		1449		1448		1447		1446		1445		1444		1443		1442		1441		1440		1439		1438		1437		1436		1435		1434		1433		1432		1431		1430		1429		1428		1427		1426		1425		1424		1423		1422		1421		1420		1419		1418		1417		1416		1415		1414		1413		1412		1411		1410		1409		1408		1407		1406		1405		1404		1403		1402		1401		1400		1399		1398		1397		1396		1395		1394		1393		1392		1391		1390		1389		1388		1387		1386		1385		1384		1383		1382		1381		1380		1379		1378		1377		1376		1375		1374		1373		1372		1371		1370		1369		1368		1367		1366		1365		1364		1363		1362		1361		1360		1359		1358		1357		1356		1355		1354		1353		1352		1351		1350		1349		1348		1347		1346		1345		1344		1343		1342		1341		1340		1339		1338		1337		1336		1335		1334		1333		1332		1331		1330		1329		1328		1327		1326		1325		1324		1323		1322		1321		1320		1319		1318		1317		1316		1315		1314		1313		1312		1311		1310		1309		1308		1307		1306		1305		1304		1303		1302		1301		1300		1299		1298		1297		1296		1295		1294		1293		1292		1291		1290		1289		1288		1287		1286		1285		1284		1283		1282		1281		1280		1279		1278		1277		1276		1275		1274		1273		1272		1271		1270		1269		1268		1267		1266		1265		1264		1263		1262		1261		1260		1259		1258		1257		1256		1255		1254		1253		1252		1251		1250		1249		1248		1247		1246		1245		1244		1243		1242		1241		1240		1239		1238		1237		1236		1235		1234		1233		1232		1231		1230		1229		1228		1227		1226		1225		1224		1223		1222		1221		1220		1219		1218		1217		1216		1215		1214		1213		1212		1211		1210		1209		1208		1207		1206		1205		1204		1203		1202		1201		1200		1199		1198		1197		1196		1195		1194		1193		1192		1191		1190		1189		1188		1187		1186		1185		1184		1183		1182		1181		1180		1179		1178		1177		1176		1175		1174		1173		1172		1171		1170		1169		1168		1167		1166		1165		1164		1163		1162		1161		1160		1159		1158		1157		11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## BREWERIES

100	120	140	-5	8.0	8.5	3.0
101	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
102	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
103	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
104	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
105	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
106	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
107	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
108	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
109	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
110	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
111	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
112	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
113	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
114	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
115	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
116	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
117	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
118	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
119	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
120	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
121	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
122	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
123	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
124	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
125	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
126	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
127	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
128	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
129	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
130	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
131	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
132	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
133	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
134	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
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140	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
141	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
142	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
143	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
144	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
145	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
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147	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
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188	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
189	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
190	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
191	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
192	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
193	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
194	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
195	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
196	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
197	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
198	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
199	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0
200	120	140	-5	11.7	12.7	2.0



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## Forme

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for April 4				Argentina austral: 765.70-765.50	
		Class	1 month	3 months	Australia dollar: 1.51-1.50
New York	1.6330-1.6435	1.6410-1.6420	0.83-0.90p	2.58-2.57p	Bahran dir: 0.8130-0.8210
London	1.6724-1.6730	1.6723-1.6730	0.84-0.90p	2.58-2.57p	Bank cruzeiro: 67.30-61.98-58.75
Amsterdam	31.25-31.1432	31.1375-31.1411	1.15-1p	2.58-2.57p	Colombian peso: 270.00-270.00
Brussels	57.25-57.40	57.50-57.80	25-27p	1p-2p	Costa Rican col: 5.5440-51.60
Geneva	10.6500-10.6500	10.6500-10.6500	1p-2p	1p-2p	Greece drachma: 205.00-205.10
Dublin	1.6251-1.6405	1.0391-1.0410	35-31p	50-75p	Indian rupee: 12.50-12.51
Frankfurt	2.7767-2.7930	2.7887-2.7930	1.15-1p	45-1p	Indonesian rupiah: 202.00-202.35
Hamburg	1.6724-1.6730	1.6723-1.6730	0.84-0.90p	100-101p	Israeli sheqel: 4.700-4.690
Madrid	176.98-177.74	177.15-177.35	17-30p	80-75p	Kenyan shilling: 6.4700-6.4635
Mexico	204.05-206.35	204.61-206.50	8-5p	10-14p	Malaysian ringgit: 4.50-4.50
Paris	1.6724-1.6730	1.6723-1.6730	0.84-0.90p	100-101p	Mexican peso: 450-460
Rome	2.9217-2.9472	2.9300-2.9332	43-31p	114-100p	New Zealand dollar: 2.8930-2.8918
Stockholm	10.0267-10.0267	10.0250-10.0272	8-1p	1-5p	Philippine peso: 4.50-4.50
Switzerland	1.6724-1.6730	1.6723-1.6730	0.84-0.90p	100-101p	Singapore dollar: 3.0045-3.0025
Vienna	19.54-19.64	19.51-19.64	10-12p	25p-20p	S. Africa rand (R): 6.4899-6.5218
Zurich	2.6950-2.6751	2.6713-2.6745	1.15-1p	31p-34p	S. Korea won: 4.30-4.30
					U.A.E. dirham: 5.67-5.05
					U.S. dollar: 1.00-1.00

**UAE Bank Rates supplied**

## MONEY MARKETS

Premium - pt. Discount - ct.		DOLLAR SPOT RATES		Gold and Securities Bank GTS	
Ireland	1.5735-1.5810	Denmark	6.4875-6.4952	Italy	1247.5-1248.5
Singapore	1.5735-1.5780	FR Germany	1.4825-1.4855	Belgium	35.10-35.15
Spain	1.5735-1.5780	FR Italy	1.4825-1.4855	FR Italy	7.015-7.018
Australia	1.5020-1.5037	Netherlands	1.5115-1.5125	Portugal	148.50-150.0
Canada	1.1675-1.1685	France	5.7125-5.7155	Spain	100.00-100.10
Japan	1.5735-1.5780	FR Japan	1.4825-1.4855	Switzerland	11.58-11.59
Norway	6.5025-6.5075				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Ede

## MONEY MARKETS

### EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month
Dollar	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2
CD: 91-7 1/4				
Deutschmark:	6 1/4-7	6 1/4-7	5 3/4-6 1/2	5 3/4-6 1/2
CD: 7 1/4-7 1/2				
French Franc:	10 1/4-5	10 1/4-5	10 1/4-10 1/2	10 1/4-10 1/2
CD: 10 1/4-5 1/2				
Swiss Franc:	9 1/4-9	9 1/4-9	9 1/4-9	9 1/4-9
CD: 9 1/4-9				
UK: 6 1/4-6 1/2	7 1/4-7	7 1/4-7 1/2	7 1/4-7 1/2	7 1/4-7 1/2

### GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

Open: \$374.00-375.00 Close: \$374.25-374.75  
High: \$375.00-375.50 Low: \$373.50-374.00

### GOLD COINS (Per coin, ex VAT)

1976-1980: \$361.00-368.00 (\$232.00-235.00)  
1979-1980: \$370.00-375.00 (\$220.00-225.00)  
1981-1982: \$361.00-368.00 (\$232.00-235.00)  
1983-1984: \$370.00-375.00 (\$220.00-225.00)  
American Eagle: \$361.00-368.00 (\$232.00-235.00)  
New Zealand: \$361.00-368.00 (\$232.00-235.00)  
Old Sovereigns: \$368.00-370.00 (\$235.00-250.00)

### PRECIOUS METALS

Commodity	Price
Gold Bar	\$374.00-375.00
Silver Bar	\$16.50-16.60
Palladium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Platinum Bar	\$1,000.00-1,010.00
Rhodium Bar	\$1,500.00-1,510.00
Iridium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Osmium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Vanadium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Niobium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Zirconium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Barium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Strontium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
Calcium Bar	\$1,200.00-1,210.00
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Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	Open	High	Low
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## Law Report April 5 1990 House of Lords

## Journalist's moral obligation to protect source is unlawful

**X Ltd v Morgan-Gramian (Publishers) Ltd and Others**  
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver of Aylmer and Lord Lowry (Speeches April 4)

An order for disclosure of a journalist's source under section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 on the ground that it was necessary in the interests of justice was only to be made if the judge was satisfied that the interests of justice were of such preponderant importance as to override the statutory privilege.

"Interests of justice" was used in the section in the same sense as persons should be enabled to exercise important legal rights or to protect themselves from serious legal wrongs and was not confined to legal proceedings in a court of law.

Decisions as to whether disclosure was necessary were to be made by the courts and not by the journalist concerned, and there was no right of "conscientious objection". Any rule of professional conduct enjoining a journalist to protect his confidential sources was subject to an implied exception to enable the journalist to obey the orders of the court.

Where a company had sought disclosure of a journalist's notes so as to identify a person who gave him, in breach of confidence, information in which there was no public interest in publication but which would serve their business, then disclosure was clearly necessary in the interests of justice.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing appeals by the publishers of *The Engineer* (Morgan-Gramian (Publishers) Ltd, a subsidiary of Morgan-Gramian plc, and by Mr William Robin Goodwin, a trainee journalist on the magazine, against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Denning of Lynton, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice McCallum) (The Times December 13, 1989; [1990] 2 WLR 421) upholding the order of the Court of Appeal (November 24, 1989) for disclosure of the identity of an informant who had supplied the magazine with confidential information concerning X Ltd and of the notes of the journalist's telephone conversation with the informant.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, Mr Andrew Nicol and Mr Robin Oppenheim for Mr Goodwin; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Miss Heather Rogers for the publishers; Mr John McCallum, QC and Mr Raymond Davenport for the plaintiffs.

LORD BRIDGE said that the plaintiffs were two associated private companies, whose anonymity it was essential to preserve if the proceedings were to be of any value.

In 1989 they wished to raise additional capital and were engaged in preparing a corporate plan for submission to prospective lenders. Much of the information in the plan was in the highest degree confidential and its publication pending the finalisation of the negotiations for which it was being prepared would be likely to cause them severe damage. In November 1989 one copy of the plan disappeared.

On the next day somebody telephoned to Mr Goodwin and gave him certain information about the plaintiffs. The nature of the information and the timing of the communication justified the inference that the source had obtained the information from the plan and was either the person who had stolen the missing copy or was closely associated with that person.

Mr Goodwin was minded to write an article for *The Engineer* about the plaintiffs based in part on the information given to him by the source and in part on information from publicly accessible sources.

He telephoned to the plaintiffs to check certain facts and drafted an article, but before any decision was taken by the plaintiffs, alerted by Mr Goodwin's inquiries, obtained an *ex parte* injunction to restrain publication.

When the matter came before Mr Justice Hoffmann, *inter partes*, the plaintiffs sought not only injunctions restraining publication but also orders for disclosure of the identity of the source and of the notes Mr Goodwin had made, as a means of discovering that identity. No order was made regarding the injunctions.

The outcome of several hearings was that the plaintiffs, who did not know the identity of the source, were ordered to disclose the notes but could not do so without the order because they had no means of coercing Mr Goodwin.

On November 22, Mr Goodwin was ordered to disclose his notes by 3pm on the following day, but the Court of Appeal varied that order by giving him the option of delivering his notes to the court in a sealed envelope which would remain sealed unless and until his avenues of appeal against the order for disclosure had been exhausted.

Mr Goodwin's failure to comply with the order was a plain declaration of his determination.

to set himself above the law. In view of the nature of his contempt of court in failing to comply with the order, the Court of Appeal held that they had a discretion whether or not to hear argument in support of Mr Goodwin's appeal and exercised the discretion to decline to do so.

The House had heard submissions made on Mr Goodwin's behalf *de bene esse*, leaving for consideration the question regarding the rights of contemptors to be heard as appellants at a time when they were in contempt of court.

Justification to order disclosure. The defendants' first submission was that the court had no jurisdiction to order discovery of Mr Goodwin's notes, in that, since the sole purpose was to identify the source, they were in the position of mere witnesses who, although they might be compelled to testify in proceedings against the source or the thief, were not amenable to any process of discovery to assist the plaintiffs in advance of litigation against those parties.

The short answer to that submission was that Mr Goodwin and the publishers were already subject to the court's jurisdiction as parties properly impleaded and that the plaintiffs' claims for *quia timet* injunctions to restrain them from publishing information imparted to them in breach of confidence.

In that capacity they were amenable to the full scope of the court's wide power to order discovery *inter partes*. The notes were unquestionably discoverable for the purposes of the *quia timet* injunction.

The fact that the plaintiffs' primary purpose in seeking to obtain disclosure of the notes was to identify the source did not in any way inhibit or restrict the court's power to order discovery for the purposes of the *quia timet* injunction.

A question arising under the "interests of justice" part of section 10 did not previously come before the House. In discussing the section generally in *Secretary of State for Defence v Guardian Newspapers Ltd* ([1985] AC 339, 350) Lord Diplock had confined the phrase to the technical sense of the limitation of jurisdiction in the course of legal proceedings in a court of law.

With all respect due to any dictum of the late Lord Diplock, that was too narrow. It was "in the interests of justice", in the sense that the plaintiffs' interest in the information which the source had given to the publisher, the greater would be the importance of protecting the source.

But another and perhaps more significant factor which would be of importance to the importance of protecting the source would be the manner in which the information was itself obtained by the source.

If it appeared to the court that the information was obtained legitimately that would enhance the importance of protecting the source.

Conversely, if it appeared that the information was obtained illegitimately, that would diminish the importance of protecting the source unless, of course, that factor was counterbalanced by a clear public interest in publication of the information, as in the classic case where the source had acted for the purpose of exposing iniquity.

His Lordship drew attention to those considerations by way of illustration only and emphasized again that they were not intended to be read as a code.

In the circumstances of the instant case Mr Justice Hoffmann and the Court of Appeal were right in finding that the necessity for disclosure of Mr Goodwin's notes in the interests of justice was established.

The importance to the plaintiffs of obtaining disclosure by in the threat of severe damage to their business, and consequently to the livelihood of their employees, which would arise from disclosure of the information contained in their corporate plan while their refinancing negotiations were still continuing.

The importance of protecting the source on the other hand was much diminished by the source's complicity, at the very least, in a gross breach of confidentiality which was not counterbalanced by any legitimate interest which publication of the information was calculated to serve.

In a case where a contemnor had not only failed wilfully and contumaciously to comply with an order of the court but made it clear that he would continue to do so, the court's authority if the order was affirmed on appeal, the court had to have a discretion to decline to entertain his appeal against the order.

But the course adopted by the Court of Appeal in the instant case was not a proper exercise of the discretion.

It was one thing to decline to entertain an appeal. It was quite another to entertain the appeal, to dismiss it and to give leave to appeal further to the House of Lords with its appeal allowed.

But the point was, in a sense, academic since the court had heard full argument from counsel for the publishers. Once the publishers and Mr Goodwin had been before the House with the benefit of leave to appeal, the court would be bound to give the publishers the benefit of leave to appeal.

On the other side the importance of protecting a source was much diminished by the source's complicity, at the very least, in a gross breach of confidentiality which was not counterbalanced by any legitimate interest which publication of the information was calculated to serve.

One important factor would be the manner in which the information was itself obtained by the source. If it appeared to the court that the information was obtained legitimately that would enhance the importance of protecting the source.

Conversely, if it appeared that the information was obtained illegitimately, that would diminish the importance of protecting the source unless, of course, that factor was counterbalanced by a clear public interest in publication of the information, as in the classic case where the source had acted for the purpose of exposing iniquity.

In the circumstances of the instant case Mr Justice Hoffmann and the Court of Appeal were right in finding that the necessity for disclosure of Mr Goodwin's notes in the interests of justice was established.

The importance to the plaintiffs of obtaining disclosure by in the threat of severe damage to their business, and consequently to the livelihood of their employees, which would arise from disclosure of the information contained in their corporate plan while their refinancing negotiations were still continuing.

## Former railway land must be offered to original owners at 1846 price

**Frederman and Others v British Railways Board and Another**  
Church Commissioners for England v Same  
Before Mr Justice Hoffmann (Judgment March 22)

Land compulsorily purchased in 1846 by the Great Northern Railway Company, and which was no longer required for the purpose for which it had been acquired had to be first offered for sale back to the successors in title of the original owners at the 1846 price.

Mr Justice Hoffmann so held in the Court of Appeal in deciding preliminary issues in separate actions by the special trustees for St Bartholomew's Hospital, Smithfield, London, and the Church Commissioners for England against the British Railways Board and National Coal Board, claiming that the board and NCB were not free to dispose of parts of land near King's Cross, under the terms of the 1846 compulsory purchase provisions.

Mr Edward Nugee, QC and Mr Terence Etherton for the trustees; Mr David Lowe, QC and Mr Charles Turnbull for the Church Commissioners; Mr Gavin Lightman, QC and Mr John Whittaker for British Railways Board; Mr Robert Reid, QC and Mr Simon Berry for NCL.

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that the land in question was 125 acres of largely derelict land occupied by disused railway sidings, overgrown track and empty Victorian warehouses.

The Great Northern Railway Company had acquired the land in the middle of the 19th century when it built King's Cross as the terminus of the new railway from London to York.

Today it was vested in the British Railways Board and National Coal Board. British Rail had plans for King's Cross

which would put some of the land to use for a new low-level station which would become the international terminus of the Channel Tunnel link.

A large area would not be needed for railway purposes. A consortium of developers had been formed to acquire the land from its present owners and construct an ambitious commercial development.

In medieval times the land had belonged to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's. In about the year 1200 they granted the land to a monastery known as the Priory of St Bartholomew, the Less whose hospital nearby in Smithfield (Bart's) was already established.

After the dissolution of the monasteries the hospital was re-established as a royal foundation. Thus in 1846 a good deal of the land required for King's Cross was owned either by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, as successors to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's, or by the Governors of the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew. The railway company acquired most of it under compulsory powers.

None of the special trustees of St Bartholomew's Hospital, as successors to the governors, and the Church Commissioners, as successors to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, claimed that British Rail and NCL were not free to dispose of the land as they wished.

They said that by the terms of the Act which gave the railway company its compulsory powers and a deed by which some of the land was conveyed, they had the right to buy it back at the price for which it was originally sold.

The Great Northern Railway Company Act 1846 gave the company power to make the railway from London to York in accordance with deposited plans and to take and use the lands necessary for the purpose.

The lands to which the compulsory powers applied were those shown on plans as within what were called the "limits of deviation".

Three of the parcels of land with which the present actions were concerned were taken under compulsory powers. They were three acres of so-called "yellow" land on the plan and forty acres of "red" land (both belonging to the hospital) and nine acres of "green" land (belonging to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners) all of which were lying north and south of the Regent's Canal.

There were also eight acres of "blue" land (belonging to the hospital) lying outside the limits of deviation which were acquired by agreement under a provision of the Act for "extraordinary purposes".

The provisions under which the plaintiffs relied were sections 57 and 102 of the 1846 Act and a provision in an indenture of January 17, 1851.

Section 57, which applied only to land taken compulsorily from the hospital (the yellow and red land), was as follows:

"And be it enacted that the whole of the ground which shall be taken compulsorily by the said company from the said Governors of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital under the provisions of this Act shall be taken within three years from the passing of this Act or at any time or times after the said railway shall be completed any of the lands so compulsorily taken by the said company shall not be used and required for the purposes for which the said company is established and incorporated, then and in such case the said railway company shall and they are hereby required to offer forthwith such land to the said Governors at a sum not exceeding the original price paid for the same by the said railway company, and the said Gov-

ernors are hereby authorized at their option to re-purchase the same at such price."

Section 102, which was of general application, was as follows:

"And be it enacted, that if at any time or times after the said railway shall be completed any of the lands so compulsorily taken by the said company shall not be used and required for the purposes for which the said company is established and incorporated, then and in such case the said railway company shall and they are hereby required to offer forthwith such land to the said Governors at a sum not exceeding the original price paid for the same by the said railway company."

There was an issue as to whether upon its true construction the application of section 102 was confined to land which had been taken compulsorily or whether it was capable of applying also to land such as the blue land acquired by agreement for extraordinary purposes.

In respect of the blue land, however, the hospital also relied upon a provision in the indenture of January 17, 1851 by which the governors conveyed the land to the company.

"And further that if at any time after the expiration of three years from the date of these presents any part of the land hereby granted and conveyed shall not be used and required for the purposes for which the said company is established and incorporated, then and in such case the said railway company shall and they are hereby required to offer forthwith such land to the said Governors at a sum not exceeding the original price paid for the same by the said railway company, and the said Gov-

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The 1979 and 1986 Acts went hand in hand in the control of unlawful dealing in drugs. They could be regarded as for material purposes similar in kind.

When the commissioners were not expressed to be under a duty to prosecute in the 1986 Act it seemed that that was what was expected of them.

Mr Lawson said that in circumstances where arrest, as opposed to the summons procedure, was appropriate Parliament had conferred upon customs officers exclusively rights and duties in relation to charging arrested persons.

There was, therefore, no sensible reason why others should not be allowed to take advantage of that well known charging procedure. A customs officer performed a special function and acted in isolation from the actual facts, deemed the proceedings to have been instituted on behalf of the police force.

Proceedings could only be said to have been instituted on behalf of a police force when it was the police who had investigated, arrested and brought the arrested person to the custody officer.

Mr Justice Nolan agreed. Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Iqbal & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

shall not be used and required for such purpose at a price not exceeding the price originally given for the same or a proportionate part thereof."

Those were the three provisions upon which the hospital and the Church Commissioners relied.

The preliminary issues raised three main questions: first, whether those provisions still applied or whether they expired many years ago; second, whether they were repealed by certain enactments; and third, whether NCL could say that its acquisition of some of the land on December 31, 1968, under the provisions of the Transport Act 1968, created an immediate right of re-purchase under section 102 of the 1846 Act, so that any claim would not be in accordance with the principle that ambiguities should be resolved against the company. The words had to be given their natural meaning.

Section 102 applied only after the expiry of the three-year period and only if "such railway or any part thereof" had been discontinued.

It applied to a discontinuance of the use for railway purposes of land on which any of the authorized works had been built which would include the goods yards, warehouses and so forth at King's Cross.

The purposes of carrying passengers and of carrying goods or other traffic seemed to be intended to encapsulate the whole of the company's objects and to embrace all purposes ancillary thereto.

The section therefore applied to the land which the plaintiffs claimed to be subject to the provisions of the 1846 Act.

It was found impossible to read the language of section 57

as contended for by the defendants; the section read like an independent and self-contained bargain between the promoters and the hospital and as being intended to confer upon the company a power to sell the land to whom it applied.

A statutory duty to offer to sell had to imply a power to sell, if the offer was accepted within a reasonable time, failing which the company would, if empowered under section 127 of the Land Clauses Act 1845 or otherwise, be entitled to sell to someone else; nor was any machinery to fix the price required. The company could sell at any price it liked provided it did not exceed the price originally paid.

To construe section 57 in the way the defendants suggested would be to introduce into the principle that ambiguities should be resolved against the company. The words had to be given their natural meaning.

Section 102 applied only after the expiry of the three-year period and only if "such railway or any part thereof" had been discontinued.

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## Customs can conduct prosecutions after charge by police

**Regina v Stafford Magistrates Court, Ex parte Commissioners of Customs and Excise**

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Nolan (Judgment March 28)

When a customs officer who had been investigating an offence arrested somebody without a warrant and took him to a police station to be charged by the custody officer, under section 37 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the proceedings were not deemed to have been instituted on behalf of the police force with the effect that the Crown Prosecution Service alone could conduct the prosecution. Accordingly the prosecution could be conducted by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in granting an application by the commissioners for judicial review of a refusal by Stafford Magistrates to commit Sabrina Liston to trial on a charge under section 24(1)(b) of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 and their decision of the information on the basis that the commissioners were not entitled to carry on the prosecution.

Mr John Laws and Mr Jonathan Gooling for the commissioners; Mr Dennis Neish for Sabrina Liston; Mr Edmund Lawson, QC and Mr Ross Burns for the Crown Prosecution Service.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that at the committal proceedings the justices ruled that the proceedings had been instituted on behalf of a police force and could, therefore, under section 3 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 only be conducted by the CPS.

Their decision was based on *R v Edwards* (1975) 1 WLR 1029. In *Dixon* (1989) 3 WLR 1098, where, in effect, Lord Justice Woolf had held that a custody officer in accepting a charge at a police station, no matter from whom, did so on behalf of the police force to which he belonged. Consequently the provisions of section 3(2)(a) of the 1985 Act automatically applied once the charge was accepted.

The provisions of section 6 of the 1985 Act clearly envisaged that persons other than the Director of Public Prosecutions might institute proceedings and prosecute. It would indeed be surprising if that was not so.

Particular regard had to be had to section 145(1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 which provided that no proceedings for an

offence under the customs and excise Acts should be instituted except by order of the commissioners.

It was surely not to be understood that the commissioners, in making such an order, were consenting to proceedings under, so to speak, their own Act inevitably being instituted on behalf of a police force.

A customs officer in investigating an offence lacked no essential power save that of charging the arrested person, clearly was denied him by article 4 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Application to Customs and Excise) Order (SI 1985 No 1800).

If it was not and the customs officer in the present case had charged Sabrina Liston under section 3(2)(a) could not possibly have been operative. So the critical matter was the charging of her by the custody officer with the effect that

the offence of assisting another to retain the benefit of drug trafficking should for all material purposes be regarded as an assigned matter, being any matter in relation to which the commissioners were required in pursuance of any enactment to perform any duties.

The 1979 and 1986 Acts went hand in hand in the control of unlawful dealing in drugs. They could be regarded as for material purposes similar in kind.

When the commissioners were not expressed to be under a duty to prosecute in the 1986 Act it seemed that that was what was expected of them.

Mr Lawson said that in circumstances where arrest, as opposed to the summons procedure, was appropriate Parliament had conferred upon customs officers exclusively rights and duties in relation to charging arrested persons.

There was, therefore, no sensible reason why others should not be allowed to take advantage of that well known charging procedure. A customs officer performed a special function and acted in isolation from the actual facts, deemed the proceedings to have been instituted on behalf of the police force.

Proceedings could only be said to have been instituted on behalf of a police force when it was the police who had investigated, arrested and brought the arrested person to the custody officer.

Mr Justice Nolan agreed. Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Iqbal & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

## Jurisdiction to try offences in two courts' areas

**Regina v Ormskirk Justices, Ex parte Battistini**

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Garland (Judgment March 29)

Justices had jurisdiction under section 12(a) of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980 to try offences alleged in the information to have taken place outside their area, provided the offences had in fact been committed within the area.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in rejecting an application by Edgardo Battistini for judicial review of the Ormskirk Justices' decision of January 17, 1989 that they had jurisdiction to try him for driving with excess alcohol and failing to provide a specimen of breath when required.

Miss Catherine Ellis for the applicant; Mr John Huggill, QC and Mr Peter D. Wright for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, delivering the judgment of the court, said the applicant had originally been charged with reckless driving contrary to section 2 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, driving with excess alcohol contrary to section 6(1), as

substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981, and failing to provide a breath specimen contrary to section 7, as substituted.

It was alleged that he had been seen by police driving his car recklessly in Ormskirk. He had been followed and eventually stopped in Southport where it was alleged he was found to have been drinking and had refused a breath specimen.

He had appeared before the Ormskirk Justices and elected crown court trial on the reckless driving charge, which referred to roads within as well as outside the Ormskirk jurisdiction. The other charges were adjourned *sine die*.

He was subsequently acquitted at the crown court and proceedings on the two remaining charges were reopened before Ormskirk Justices.

It was there submitted on his behalf that the justices had no jurisdiction since the information alleged that the offences under sections 6(1) and 7 were committed in Southport, some ten miles outside the Ormskirk Justices' jurisdiction.

There were two answers. By section 12(a) of the 1980 Act the magistrates had power

to issue a summons on an information "if the offence is committed or is suspected to have been committed within the area" of their jurisdiction.

The section was concerned with the actual facts. Provided the offence was in fact committed in the area of the relevant justices, then their jurisdiction and the charges could be amended.

When the information was originally laid it included all three offences. Clearly at the stage where the information was laid it was valid because it included an offence which was in the justices' jurisdiction and by section 2(6) of the 1980 Act the other offences could have been tried if the reckless driving had proceeded to summary trial.

Solicitors: Irving Phillips & Co, Ormskirk; CPS Preston.

**Correction**  
In *Lloyds Bank plc v Rosser and Another* (The Times March 30) Mrs Rosser's solicitors were Collyer-Bristow for Walsley & Barnes, Cliftonville.

In *In re E (a Minor)* (The Times April 2) the solicitors for the child were Charles Russell Williams & James.



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Computer programming for the above examinations is carried out on an IBM 4341 operating under DOS/VS and a network of DEC VAX machines operating under VMS.

The Board is expanding its development team and requires programmers with a minimum of 18 months experience in a minimum of two of the following areas: (a) development work on behalf of both the JMB and the NEA; (b) development work in one or more of the following: COBOL, Assembler, CICS, CMS, Oracle, SQL, for small and large.

Applications, forms and further details may be obtained from: The Secretary (Staff Group), Joint Matriculation Board, Manchester M15 6EU or by telephoning 061 273 2565. Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday April 24, 1990.

(708)



● MEDICINE: MAGIC BULLETS  
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# Whiz-kids beat wheel of fortune

How a group of science students used tiny computers and radio transmitters secreted in their shoes, plus the laws of physics, to outwit the game of roulette in the gambling dens at Las Vegas

Can Newton's Laws of Motion and physics theories of chaos, friction and probability be applied to the apparent randomness of the roulette wheel?

That was the tantalizing question that a group of computer science students studying at the University of California decided to solve. For just under a decade the group, led by Doane Farmer, grappled with the logistical complexities of designing a computer that could be worn secretly and used in a casino.

It needed to be programmable in a gambling hall by someone observing the unique spin of a wheel and the way it bounced the ball. And the electronics had to be capable of discreetly relaying betting messages to an accomplice sitting at the roulette table with a stack of chips. The ambitious scheme's victims were the glossy gambling dens of Las Vegas, Nevada.

After numerous aborted tests with flawed designs, including computers in bras that short-circuited and gave off electrical shocks when the wearer perspired, the students finally created the ultimate gambling computer: a machine so small it could fit in a shoe and was capable of delivering more than a 33 per cent return at the tables. How much the team won at the tables is unclear.

Thomas Bass, one of the participants, has written a book on the team's exploits, *The Newtonian Casino*, to be published in Britain next month. He says the team is not prepared to reveal profits, although money was made.

"We proved it could be done and that was the real motivation behind the project," he explained, adding that one of today's professional gamblers could be working the world's casinos armed with little more than an electronic shoe and a lot of guile.

Certainly the legislators in Nevada took the project seriously. When news of the scheme emerged in 1985, they drafted tough laws banning any "device" capable of "projecting the outcome of the game" punishable by up to 10 years in jail and a fine of \$10,000 (about £6,100).

Most of the "whiz-kids" involved have since gone on to leading scientific careers in the United States. Doane Farmer is group leader in the Theoretical Division at the prestigious Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico.

The lessons learnt trying to beat the tables are now being applied to more academic pursuits, including artificial life, population biology and other subjects centred on the theories of chaos. In this extract from *The Newtonian Casino*, Thomas Bass describes what happened when he and Doane Farmer used their system at the Sundance casino.

WE DRIVE into the parking garage behind Benny Binion's Horseshoe Club and circle up the ramp to the third floor.

"We shouldn't be seen talking to each other," Doane says. "Not even in the street. In case there are any slip-ups,

we'll meet later in the Golden Nugget. Why don't you run through the signals again?" "A bet on red means I take a five-minute walk. Even means sit down and play. A chip on the first 12 numbers and I raise stakes. This is one of the ways we'll communicate without talking for the next two hours. The other is by computer."

We park the car and lift two pairs of shoes off the rear seat. These are good leather Oxfords with crepe soles. Only on peering inside does one notice that the bottoms are hollowed out. A channel three inches wide and a half inch deep runs from toe to instep. A second cavity is cut into the heel. This is professional work. Uppers and soles have been separated and restitched without a trace.

We reach back for two more shoe boxes. One of them holds our power supplies, known to us as "battery boxes". The second box holds our computers, which resemble orthopaedic insoles with toe clickers built on to the front end. The missing pieces in a jigsaw puzzle, computers and boats fit exactly into the cavities cut out of the shoes. The boats slip forward into the heel. The computers snuggle up front under the balls of our feet.

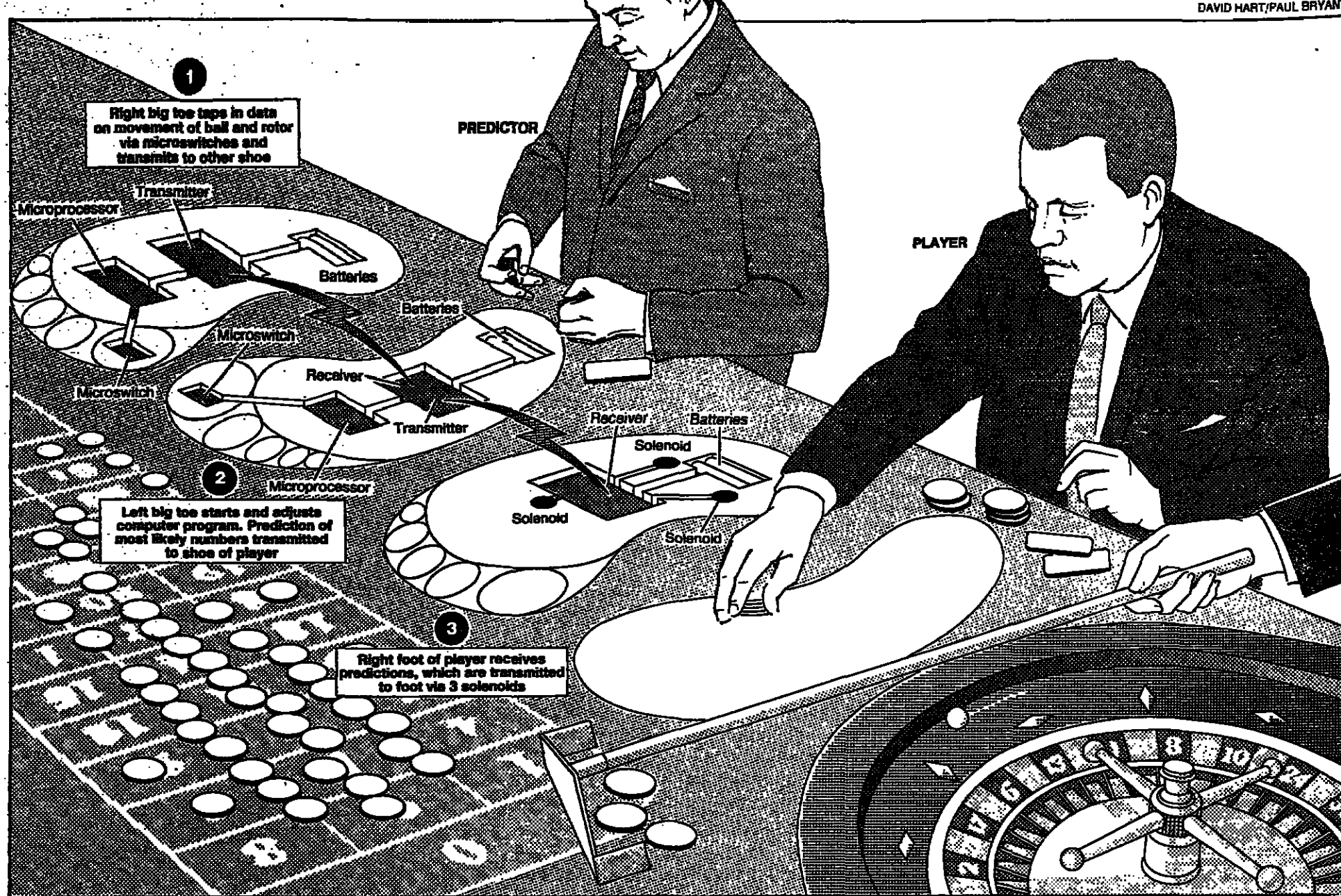
Covered with screw-on lids made of polycarbonate "jail glass," the boats have two metal solenoids the size of pencil erasers sticking out of holes cut into the plastic. Activated by a small current, these mechanical thumpers are positioned to vibrate against the heel and arch of the foot. By varying the location and frequency of these buzzes, a computer driving the solenoids can generate dozens of discrete signals.

In technical terms, we are slipping into our shoes a CMOS 6502 microprocessor with five kilobytes of random-access memory. Apple computers are made with the same chip. We carry another 4,000 bytes of memory crafted into a program smart enough to beat roulette at a 44 per cent advantage. The program — a set of mathematical equations similar to those used by NASA for landing spaceships on the Moon — tracks a ball in orbit around a spinning disc of numbers.

During the 10 to 20 seconds in which the game is played from beginning to end, the computer calculates coefficients of friction and drag, adjusts for changes in velocity, plots relative positions and trajectories, and then announces where in this heavenly cosmos a roulette ball will likely come to rest on a still-spinning rotor.

Its predictive power lies in the fact that the computer in our shoes can play out in microseconds a game that in real life takes a million times longer.

A 44 per cent advantage is significantly larger than any other gambling system extant. The payout in roulette is 35 to one. For every \$100 invested — compounded 50 times an hour — one can expect a tidy hourly return of \$2,200. The money is sweet, but so too is



How technology beat the spin of the wheel: "Why would anyone play roulette without wearing a computer in his shoe?" asks Thomas Bass, who was part of the casino team

the glory in beating roulette. Doane steps out of the car and stands with his big toes positioned over the microswitches in his left and right shoes. His left toe is expert at motoring the computer among subroutines in its program. His right toe is trained for tapping in data. With Doane's computer on line and making predictions, another radio link connects it to the computer and solenoids in my right shoe.

This gives us a three-footed system, with functions divided between data taker and better. Since I have no microswitches under my toes, my role is limited to fielding signals radioed from Doane's computer to mine, and placing bets on the layout. I am the front man of the operation, a foil, a mere interpreter of signs tattooed on to the soles of my feet.

I lace up my shoes and step out of the car. I am walking on five years of labour and several thousand dollars' worth of software and hardware: a state-of-the-art computer. Walking to the head of the street, I turn into the Sundance, a second-rate casino. The wheel should prove no match for computer sandwiches built into magic shoes.

It is not by mathematical but by physical prediction that one beats the game of roulette.

You need to know the exact forces acting on ball and rotor at each play of the game. This requires a computer programmed with an algorithm — a general equation describing the physics of roulette — into which you can plug the variables governing the wheel.

If the wheel is tilted, you locate the high side and shadow on the track. You calculate the average velocity at which the ball tends to fall

off. You compute the rate at which the central rotor decelerates. Given these general parameters — which differ significantly from wheel to wheel — the computer and its algorithm become predictive.

But for this they need more information gathered while the game is in play. This is supplied by a data taker clicking two passes of the rotor in front of a fixed reference point on the frame of the wheel, and two or more passes of the ball in front of the same point. It is now an easy matter for a computer to calculate relative velocities and position, the projected time of fall for the ball, its trajectory over the sloping sides of the wheel, and its final collapse on to the spinning disc of numbers.

To fit the computer's program to a particular wheel, Doane carries on a kind of dialogue between his big toes. The microswitch in his left shoe steers the computer into subroutines in its program, while the microswitch in the right shoe clocks the ball and rotor data.

A tap routine combining left toe and right toe alters the parameters themselves. To get the algorithm tweaked around to the conditions at hand requires a good eye and split-second reflexes. The process takes anywhere from 10 minutes to half an hour.

With five years' practice, Doane is an ace at driving the computer around its program. He adjusts variables by sight, or from a sixth sense developed by now in his big toes. The remaining variables are fine-tuned by trial and error.

Does the ball travel farther than or not as far as predicted? Are there unusual circumstances, such as atmospheric pressure, affecting its behaviour? From one play of the

game to the next, Doane notes what the computer predicts against what the ball does, until, ideally, the two sets of data could be plotted on top of each other in a bell curve nearly symmetrical about the mean.

Doane places a bet on even: my signal to play. I sit in the chair, and hand the croupier \$300. He claps his hands and the pit boss watches as my bills get stuffed into the cash box with what looks like a wooden meat cleaver. The croupier again claps his hands and shoves across the felt three stacks of red chips valued now, according to the copper disc in front of the

bank, at \$5 apiece. The pit boss gives me a good stare.

This is it. The knock-over. My debut into the big time. I have the layout in front of me memorized backwards and forwards. I know the arrangement of all the corresponding numbers on the wheel. I have them divided around the circle into octants, eight groups of four or five numbers apiece, that correspond in turn to one of eight different buzzes tattooed by computer on to the bottoms of my feet.

The ball whirrs smoothly around the track and slows for

its final revolutions. The cups below spin successively red, black, and green. I wait for Doane to enter data and transmit a prediction from his computer to mine. Like time machines speeding up the present, our computers are going to peer into the future and chart the trajectory of the game a crucial few seconds in advance of its being played.

I get a high-frequency buzz on the front solenoid. A three. The third octant. Including numbers 1, 13, 24 and 36. I stretch over the baize and cover the first three numbers with chips. I skip the 36 at the bottom of the layout and substitute instead the 00,

which lies near it on the wheel and closer to my seat.

Like a basketball player watching a free throw sail up and into the basket, I lean back on my heels and wait. I turn to the cocktail waitress and order a tequila sunrise. I smile at the pit boss. I'm not even looking as the croupier calls out the number 13 and places his pyramid on top of my bet.

Why would anyone play roulette, I think to myself, without wearing a computer in his shoe?

● *The Newtonian Casino*, by Thomas A. Bass, is published by Longman on May 21 at £12.95

## Talent with a bias to the left

EVIDENCE from more than 20 years of psychological research has produced conclusions with disconcerting implications for the education system (Pearce Wright writes).

The latest findings from long-term studies by Dr Marian Annett, of Leicester University, suggest that teachers can no longer assume that if about half of the class learns things easily, the other half ought to be able to do so too. She says: "It seems the other half may need to be taught things that for the advantaged half come naturally."

An outline of her results published by the Medical Research Council, which supports her investigations, coincides with the presentation of other controversial studies of the development of intelligence to be discussed by the annual meeting of the British Psychological Society, beginning today at University College, Swansea.

Her results could account for earlier observations of other researchers of the high proportion of left-handers found in many groups of outstanding ability: tennis professionals, cricketers, surgeons and mathematicians.

By the same token, it seems that outstanding human performances are not likely to occur in the most heavily



Prominent lefties: Albert Einstein and George Bush

biased right-handers. Twenty years ago Dr Annett concluded that no convincing evidence existed of a link between intellectual ability and a preference for left-handedness, right-handedness or mixed-handedness. Her change of mind came with some experiments devised initially for assessing dexterity for certain types of handicapped patients needing remedial treatment.

The experiments have since been used in a continuing study of hundreds of normal children from pre-school to university students.

The test consists of a board with two rows of 10 holes. One row is filled with pegs that are moved to the second row with

one hand. The board is then turned and the task is repeated with the other hand.

Unusual differences in the subjects' ability to carry out simple chores led to a more detailed study that covers reading and mathematical attainment and other skills.

From the results, Dr Annett suggests there is a genetic basis for left- and right-handedness and its influence on intelligence, which, she says, "makes some of my biologist colleagues very unhappy".

But her measurements of dexterity in moving pegs showed that although it confirmed the strong bias in the population to right-handedness, the proportion of left-handed and ambidextrous

people cannot be explained by chance. She argues that as the two halves of the brain have to develop their communication pathways in infancy, there would be an advantage for the side of the brain that controls speech also to control handedness so that the children co-ordinate most effectively from the outset.

She has conceived of two genes that she calls as rs+, the right shift gene, and rs-, thought to be neutral or indifferent to the laterality of the brain. As everyone inherits one set of genes from each parent, a child with two right-handed parents inherits two copies of the same gene — designated rs+-. From two left-handed parents the child inherits two copies of a gene designated rs--. Or from a left-handed and a right-handed parent a mixture of genes designated rs+-, she says.

The last group are the truly ambidextrous, but it appears from tests that the rs+- individuals are at the greatest disadvantage.

Dr Annett says this suggests that having one copy of the rs+ gene must be advantageous for human development, while having two must carry risks, or the gene would have spread throughout the population and eliminated the rs--.

### GREENPEACE



#### ANTARCTICA

The frozen continent of the south is the world's last great wilderness. But Antarctica is under threat from nations competing to exploit its living and mineral resources. Greenpeace has established its own research base in Antarctica and is working to secure a protected status for the wilderness and its wildlife — a "world park" free of military or industrial intervention.

THANK GOD SOMEONE'S MAKING WAVES

### GREENPEACE



#### NON-VIOLENCE

In 14 years of campaigning Greenpeace's greatest achievement has been its refusal to resort to violence. Ever. At least as important as opposing nuclear weapons, saving whales or trying to stop ocean pollution, is the war it has been doing. To Greenpeace the peace is as important as the green: the message is as important as the end.

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### GREENPEACE

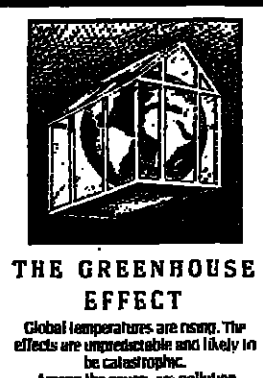


#### NUCLEAR POWER

The possibility of future nuclear accidents is real. The probability is high. A near-miss was avoided recently, resulting in a release of radioactive material which can be expected within 30 years according to former US Nuclear Regulatory Commission scientists. Greenpeace has raised fundamental questions on the safety of US deep-sea nuclear waste and is campaigning for their closure.

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### GREENPEACE



#### THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Global temperatures are rising. The effects are unpredictable and likely to be catastrophic. Among the causes are pollution from energy production, car exhausts and CFC gases. The answer? — Efficient energy use, changing methods of electricity production, and the development of renewable energy resources. Greenpeace is campaigning to reduce all pollutants which contribute to the greenhouse effect for an end to residential forms of electricity production for positive measures to save energy, for reduced car emissions, and for an immediate end to all production of CFCs.

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### GREENPEACE

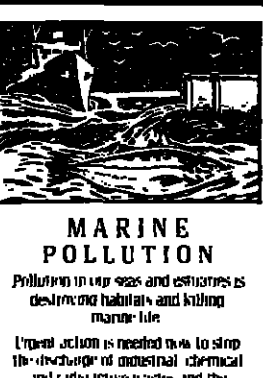


#### NUCLEAR FREE SEAS

Since 1945, the world's five nuclear navies have been involved in over 200 accidents at sea and in ports. As a result fifty nuclear warheads and more nuclear reactors lie abandoned on the seabed, presenting a serious long term threat to the marine environment. Meanwhile, naval nuclear waste has proliferated unchecked while land-based weapons have been the focus of arms negotiations. Through its Nuclear Free Seas Campaign, Greenpeace is working to promote the reduction of naval nuclear weapons in disarmament negotiations and to alert the world to the dangers of accidents involving nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors at sea.

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### GREENPEACE



#### MARINE POLLUTION

Pollution in our seas and estuaries is destroying habitats and killing marine life. Urgent action is needed now to stop the discharge of industrial chemical and radioactive waste and the dumping of sewage sludge. The UK and Ireland are the only countries still burning sewage sludge into the North and Irish seas. Greenpeace has backed chemical discharge rates, confirmed dump ships and researched and reported on the effects of toxic pollution. In 1989 Greenpeace will continue to confront the polluters and to campaign for laws to be amended and enforced to protect our seas.

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

Global warming and a thaw in East-West relations has stimulated polar research, reports Pearce Wright

## The Arctic comes in from Cold War

An international team of scientists is proposing to deliberately freeze an oceanographic research ship into the Arctic Sea ice, off Siberia. Then it plans to make a unique set of measurements, probably taking two to three years, as underlying currents push the frozen surface, plus the trapped vessel, across the cap of the world.

At the same time, a revolutionary type of robot submarine will manoeuvre under the ice to begin systematic mapping of the hidden topography of the vast ice sheets that cover more than 20 million square kilometres in winter and 10 million in the summer.

The developments are among the future research projects under scrutiny at the first international meeting for scientists from all the

**'The polar regions can be expected to provide the earliest evidence of change'**

western and eastern bloc countries interested in the future of the Arctic, which began yesterday at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University.

In the political tension between the East and the West of the past 40 years, the strategic importance of the Arctic Sea ice, which is the hideaway of many missile-carrying submarines, discouraged scientific co-operation.

While collaboration at the South Pole has flourished through the

Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research, the northern hemisphere above latitude 66 degrees 33 minutes has been under-researched.

A change of attitude has come with the threat of global warming, which has fortunately coincided with the thaw in international relations and stimulated a surge of interest in the Arctic.

Research by Dr Peter Wadhams, director of the Scott Polar, has revealed the first clear signs of a thinning of the sea ice. In an area of more than 300,000 square kilometres - twice the size of Britain - of the Arctic Ocean north of Greenland, the ice thickness diminished by 15 per cent between 1976 and 1987.

He describes sea ice as "a thin and delicate skin separating the ocean from the atmosphere. It reflects most of the solar radiation falling on it, so helping to cool the planet's surface. If its area were reduced, the warming of the Earth would be accelerated due to the extra absorption of radiation by the ocean."

Dr Wadhams adds: "Sea ice also takes part in a set of complex interactions with the ocean, including the production of 'bottom water' by the sinking of surface water, which has been made more dense by the addition of salt from freezing."

"This sinking carries carbon dioxide into the deep ocean. If this process stopped, the world would lose one of its major oceanic carbon dioxide 'sinks' causing an acceleration of the greenhouse effect."

In addition to thinning of the sea ice, Dr Wadhams said unusual events were being observed on the great continental ice sheets, covering Greenland and Antarctica to thicknesses of up to four to five kilometres.

He said that while the stability of the great land ice sheets was not seriously doubted, there were break-outs along coastlines of giant icebergs many times the normal volume, and up to 80 miles long, from the ice shelves.

Dr Wadhams describes the polar regions as only one of the indicator areas of the world in which the climatic effects of man-made interference with the environment may



Scientists drill a hole in the ice: now they want to deep freeze a ship

be detected. But he emphasises that they are especially important because the magnitude of the warming is expected to be greatest at those latitudes, and the polar regions can be expected to provide the earliest evidence of significant change.

Dr Wadhams is proposing to a newly formed International Arctic Sciences Committee, representing all countries interested in the northern seas, that they should join in a World Polar Watch.

The work of individual groups measuring atmospheric and ocean circulations, the extent and thickness of sea ice, changes in ice sheets and associated biological effects, would be pooled to ensure the earliest warning was obtained of climatic change.

The Scott Polar Research Institute provides a focal point for the activities of a large number of British teams engaged in Arctic exploration, which includes drilling

## SCIENCE REPORT

## Marriage and the Womble Factor

Even though the Pas de Calais looks much the same as East Kent, hardly more than 20 miles away, the cultural and linguistic gulf is apparent even to a casual day-tripper.

Despite a thousand years of artistic and literary musings on the subject, nobody has worked out by how much the character of the English differs from that of the French.

The scientific answer is 20.7 per cent. This measure of the difference in national character comes from a report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences by Robert Sokal, of the State University of New York, at Stony Brook, and Guido Barbujani, of the University of Padua. They

exception to the rule: the people in the west of Ireland differ from their fellow Irishmen in the east by 69.2 per cent, even though they all speak the same language.

The difference is historical: the Vikings who settled in the east of Ireland more than 1,000 years ago came directly from Scandinavia, but western Irishmen came via Celtic Britain, picking up Celtic genes on the way.

But even were emigrants and western Irishmen to have spoken different languages once upon a time, they do no longer: therefore, the fact that the genetic difference is detectable a millennium later is remarkable. This apart, no less than 15 of the 33 genetic markers found by



the researchers coincided with boundaries between language families, whether or not the differences were reinforced by a physical barrier. The English Channel separates more than just English and French, but the Germanic and Romance families of languages. But some differences cannot easily be explained by the interposition of a physical barrier. For example, the German-speaking Austrians are genetically as well as linguistically different from the Finno-Ugric-speaking Hungarians - 24 per cent.

With few exceptions, then, just two kinds of factors have influenced how the genetic map of Europe has been drawn: physical and linguistic. This, say the researchers, shows that the subtle differences in genetics between the peoples of Europe have nothing to do with adaptation to local environments. It reflects the diverse origins of populations and the legacy of migrations over thousands of years.

Henry Gee

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Checking an ice buoy: its signal can be tracked by ship or satellite

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

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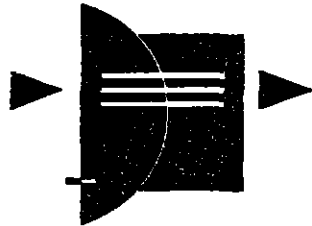
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Strain of perfecting a pinta

A remarkable technique for producing designer membranes has been developed by scientists which may make the daily pinta taste as rustic and flavoured as if it were fresh from the cow.

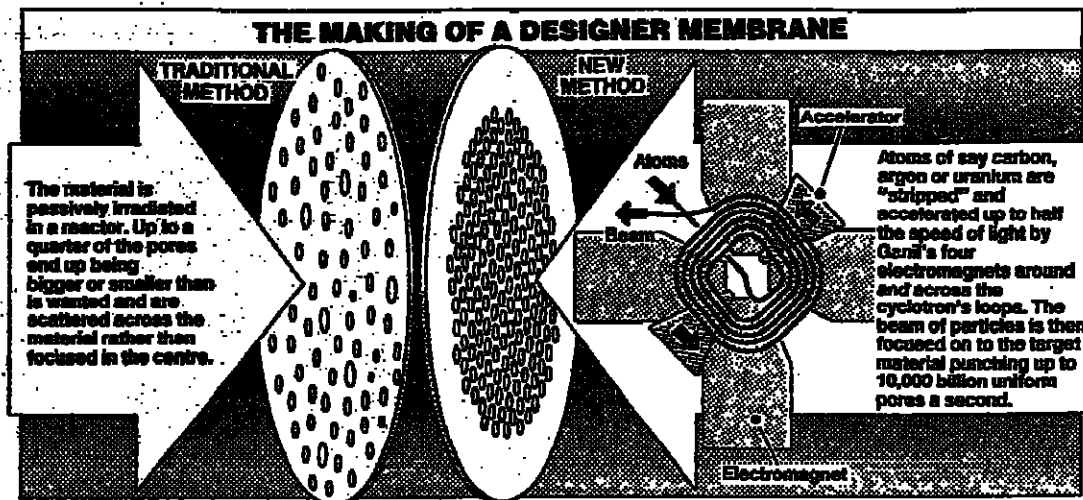
Afficionados of raw milk, including the Prince of Wales, argue that the heat treatment or the pasteurization process not only kills micro-organisms such as salmonella and E. coli, but also impairs taste.

The new method of membrane-making harnesses the microscopic hole-punching power of a cyclotron — a machine that can accelerate charged atoms into a fine, uniform beam. Its inventors claim that for the first time a reliable filter can be made, capable of sifting bugs from milk proteins and vitamins without heating.

Currently, membranes — ultra-fine materials thinner than a human hair and used for separating contaminants from liquids and air — are purely statistical affairs. A one-micron membrane, which has holes about the thickness of two human hairs, will have pores mainly one micron in size. But up to a quarter, however, may be slightly larger or smaller.

On one hand this leads to unwanted particles passing through larger than specified holes; on the other it means higher

Nick Nuttall reports on a new filtration technique which could make unpasteurized milk safe to drink straight from the cow



than required pressures are needed to force a liquid through the smaller holes. The implication of these flaws in modern membrane making are not confined to milk.

Ultra-filtration is becoming more important in the manufacture of microchips with smaller and smaller features. The difficulties of making ultra-pure water often leads to factory lines having to shut down because of a filter's

failure, and up to a third of the chips made being rejected because of flaws.

Pharmaceutical firms have similar problems, as do surgeons performing operations such as heart bypasses, where a patient's blood is filtered to avoid life-threatening clots returning to the circulatory system in the crucial days of recovery.

The push to develop artificial organs is also being hampered by

the shortfalls of modern membrane-making technology.

Researchers believe the new process will also have uses in the development of better food packaging — which could boost the shelf life of food by allowing it to breathe more naturally — and in biotechnology and gas production.

The technique owes its genesis to work by French scientists at Ganil, the Grand National Accelerator for Heavy Ions, in Caen,

Normandy. It has now been turned into a commercial reality by researchers at the Utah-based Biopore in the United States, which bought the rights to the technology along with access to the cyclotron at Ganil from the French government.

The advances in membrane reliability and consistency hinge on the way the cyclotron produces beams of heavy ions, such as argon, which are identical in size. Membrane-makers now have to rely on the passive irradiation of plastic polycarbonate, which is much less controlled.

In addition, the intensity of the cyclotron's beam of heavy ions can, uniquely, be altered for treating relatively thick materials of up to 100 microns, John Plak, Biopore's president, explains. It includes the ability to punch holes of between 0.01 and 4 microns in size in predetermined parts of a membrane.

Current passive methods create pores at the very edge of the material. When stretched, this often leads to microscopic tearing during the membrane's life — causing a filtration malfunction and, ultimately, a breakdown in a company's production line.

A chemical etching technique that uses ultraviolet light can also endow the extra-thin pores with even more selective filtration properties.

## A storm in a laboratory jar

Physicists at the University of Utah attacked cold fusion in their own backyard last week, reporting they found no signs of nuclear fusion in the device their chemist colleagues unveiled a year ago.

Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann rocked the scientific world when they announced at the University of Utah that they had created nuclear fusion in a laboratory jar at room-temperature. They said the process could be a source of cheap, clean energy.

In a study published last week in *Nature*, a 10-member team of Utah physicists and nuclear experts said it found "no evidence" of any known fusion reactions after monitoring four of Dr Pons's "cold fusion" devices for five weeks.

"During the time we were in his laboratory, there were no fusion processes occurring as we know them... There wasn't even a single 'peep'," Michael Salamon, an associate physics professor who headed the investigation, said.

"In my professional opinion — I could be wrong and I hope I'm wrong — I don't think cold fusion is a real phenomenon. The evidence is not there."

Last autumn, researchers working in consultation with Dr Fleischmann failed to reproduce the Utah findings and speculated scientific sloppiness may lie behind the original claim.

The Pons-Fleischmann device consisted of palladium and platinum electrodes in a jar of heavy water, made of oxygen and a form of hydrogen called deuterium.

When electricity was run through the jar, the chemists theorized deuterium and oxygen split, and the palladium electrode absorbed deuterium in such high concentrations that the atoms fused, releasing more energy in the form of heat than was put into the experiment.

In the new report, the physicists monitored the devices for signs of all known fusion reactions. No neutron, gamma ray or electron emissions were found to indicate the heat bursts reported by Drs Pons and Fleischmann stemmed from fusion, they said.

For some reactions, radiation levels were "a thousand billion times smaller" than necessary for fusion, Dr Salamon said.

Even the unusual scenario in which the fusion by-product tritium is trapped in the palladium electrode should produce "strong and distinct" gamma rays, he said.

Drs Pons and Fleischmann originally argued for fusion on the basis of their observations of what appeared to be excess gamma rays and neutrons. But Dr Salamon said that data did not hold up, leaving only claims of excess heat.

## Drug trial on eggs

A low-cholesterol egg has been produced in a small laboratory study by feeding hens a drug prescribed for humans with high cholesterol. Researchers Robert Elkin and John Rogelero, from the Purdue University in Indiana, have reported that hens fed with the drug lovastatin produced eggs with 1 to 15 per cent less cholesterol. "Unlike any drug previously tried, it appears that lovastatin can reduce the cholesterol content of eggs without causing the hen to produce fewer eggs or apparently without any residue of the drug in the egg," Mr Elkin says. With the drug costing £50 a gram, it is too expensive for use by the egg industry, though less expensive compounds may be developed.

## Hacker tip-off

Three Australian youths arrested earlier this week in Melbourne after a tip-off from the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been charged with breaking into computer systems in the United States and damaging data in government computers. Detective Superintendent Ken Hunt, who headed the six-month investigation, said it was not unusual for Australian hackers to spend up to 16 hours a day on their personal computers or on international calls charged to the companies whose computers they entered. In 1988, the US Secret Service investigated hacking into the Citibank computer system by an Australian-based hacker codenamed Phoenix, who is believed to be one of those just arrested. Police think Phoenix may also be the same man who last month phoned *The New York Times* claiming to be the hacker breaking into the US Internet network used by the military, corporations and universities.

## Rabies foxed

Packets of rabies vaccine were dropped by helicopter in France this week to begin a seven-month project aimed at reducing the disease among red foxes. Vaccination, both by air and ground, has cut deeply into epidemics among foxes in Switzerland, West Germany and The Netherlands, leaving France with the unwelcome reputation of being the rabies centre of Europe. Aerial experiments in 1989 achieved an 80 per cent immunization rate and this year, helicopters will dump almost 1 million vaccine doses, saturating 27,000 square miles of rabies-infested territory. The frozen packets are composed of a rabies-vaccine capsule planted in a ball of fish powder. After they thaw, the packets give off an odour foxes find hard to resist. "The fox thinks it's fish, he eats it, and *voilà*, he's vaccinated," Philippe Brie, a technician with the French Rabies Bureau, says. "If they

## BRIEFING

have rabies, it's too late. But it protects the others."

## Early shuttle

The launch of the space shuttle *Discovery*, carrying the \$900-million Hubble Space Telescope, has been brought forward by two days to next Tuesday. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said technicians needed to use little of the time allowed in the schedule for unforeseen contingencies. The telescope, which will orbit 380 miles above the Earth for the next 15 years, will be able to look seven times more deeply into space with greater clarity and to detect objects 50 times fainter than the best ground-based observatory. The telescope's installation into the orbiter was delayed for two days last week after midges invaded a payload preparation room at the launch pad. Engineers feared the bugs might damage the sensitive instrument.

## Bald finding

Male baldness may be linked to slightly higher blood cholesterol levels and mildly increased blood pressure. A study of 872 male factory workers around the Naples area — 278 of whom were defined as having a bald spot on the crown of their heads, 272 with receding hairlines and 321 with full heads of hair — discovered the cholesterol level of those with full heads of hair was 208 compared to 214 for the bald sample and a blood pressure of 87 compared to 89. "We are aware that these are not numbers that place men in a very high-risk category for developing coronary heart disease, but this may change as the men age," says Dr Maurizio Trevisan, an epidemiologist from the State University of New York, who conducted the study with the University of Naples.

## Ideas for all

A cooker that switches itself off when the milk boils over and a brick for trade viewers to throw at the television were two of the ideas shown off this week at the annual Inventions Fair in Geneva. More than 1,000 inventions were on show, including a gas stove with a built-in electronic device which shuts it off in three seconds, bleeps when milk overflows and extinguishes the flame. The "tantrum TV brick", on offer from the London-based Scientific Applied Research, is made of foam and contains a microchip which transmits a message to a receiver plugged into a television set that turns off the offending item when the brick hits the screen. Also on show was an anti-snoring device from Asia, called "ear peace". The device, the same size as a hearing aid, fits into the ear and emits a high-pitched sound of increasing intensity to disturb the snorer until he changes his breathing pattern — without waking.

Matthew May

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386sx processor. But although big in capacity, the 386 laptop is impressively small in size.

Weighing in at a very slender 14.5lbs it's particularly handy should your work involve missions overseas.

Other features you'll appreciate are its 3 hour battery life, a high clarity VGA screen, and an AT keyboard with 12 function keys.

If, however, you find the 386 rather too powerful for your needs, there's the 20MB 286 laptop, with

an equally attractive price tag of just £1999.

And the catch? There isn't one. All Tandon portables come, dare we say, with no strings attached.

For more information on Tandon portables and free literature for the Which Computer Store (24h) 27th April 1990 write to Tandon plc, FREEPOST, Hand End, Redditch, Worcestershire B9C 5XP. Or call us on (0527) 536150.

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Company .....  
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Patching up your troubles

Most of us are vague about how drugs work, but we all think we know how to take them. Medicines are either swallowed, or, when quick results are needed, taken as an injection. Now all that is changing.

According to Professor Brian Barry, of the University of Bradford, taking traditional pills and tablets is "like flooding a skyscraper to extinguish a waste-bin fire on the top floor". It works, but it is excessive and can be damaging.

New drug-delivery methods concentrate on giving a constant, low dose, rather than the sudden "high" which follows when a traditional drug is swallowed or injected.

These controlled-release drugs will eventually transform the quality of life experienced by asthmatics, arthritics and those with heart disease.

Work is under way to develop a diabetes treatment which will respond to individual blood-sugar levels. Most of these methods are just new ways of delivering established drugs into the body at a carefully controlled rate.

A contraceptive vaginal ring could be marketed in the next 12 to 18 months. It consists of a polymer ring containing the hormone commonly used in the contraceptive pill, levonorgestrel. The ring provides contraceptive protection for three months, using 30 per cent less hormone than low-dose pills.

Because hormones are proteins, part of their effect is lost when they are carried from the intestines to the liver. However, a vaginally delivered drug does not reach the liver until much later — after it has had a chance to work.

The Institute of Psychiatry, London, is testing nicotine skin patches and nasal sprays on people who wish to give up smoking. Each morning, the smoker applies a new patch, and as he or she becomes less dependent, the nicotine dose is reduced. The nasal sprays are used by patients whenever they feel the need for a cigarette, and can be used up to 80 times a day.

However, according to Gay Sutherland, senior clinical psychologist at the institute, most people use the spray much less frequently. With both treatments, group therapy is also provided.

"Most patients find the spray rather aversive to start with, with some local irritation in the nose. They usually gain tolerance after a few days," Ms Sutherland says.

"The sprays are intended to be used for three months. Some people manage to give up smoking using

Doctors may soon be prescribing "magic bullets", Ann Kent reports



the spray before that time, while a small group have been allowed to continue for up to year where there was a serious risk that they would otherwise resume smoking.

A travel-sickness remedy, Scopoderm TTS, from Ciba-Geigy, is also in the form of a patch. It is stuck behind the ear — where the skin is thin — five hours before travelling, and lasts for up to 72 hours. A prescription is needed.

The same company also produces a daily patch, Transderm-Nitro, which is worn by angina patients to prevent further attacks, and a natural oestrogen patch, which is changed every three to four days and used for menopause symptoms (hormone-replacement therapy).

All drugs pass from the intestine, via the blood, into the liver. In many cases, enzymes in the liver will digest most of the treatment before it has a chance to work. This means either that the drug cannot be given as a tablet, or undesirably

high doses need to be taken.

The advantage of passing a drug through the skin — transdermal therapy — is that it does not enter the liver until much later, after it has had a chance to work. Not all diseases can be cured by patches. The skin is our natural barrier against infection and also acts as a barrier to many drugs.

Prof Barry, whose team is working on new drug-delivery methods, says: "Transdermal therapy got a poor image after ridiculous claims were made in the mid-Eighties, when it was said that 70 per cent of all drugs would be taken through the skin."

"In fact, you need powerful drugs with molecules small enough to pass through the skin, combined with a good reason why the treatment cannot be taken by mouth before you consider transdermal drugs. Hormones are good candidates because otherwise they tend to be broken down in the liver."

"It is likely that new patches will be developed which include painkillers, and male hormone for men with fertility problems. Skin patches for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's (senile dementia) are also being considered, although new drugs will need to be developed to put into the patches, and that could take years."

"One problem which is often overlooked is that some of these drugs produce quite a severe reaction on the patient's skin, and you can't predict in advance who these patients will be."

"The positioning of the patches tends to be psychological rather than logical — below the bikini line for hormone replacement, near the heart for angina."

Prof Barry's team is working on a slow-release version of two anti-arthritis drugs, ibuprofen and naproxen, which are in the form of tiny pellets, coated with a polymer

film which slowly absorbs water once it reaches the gut.

The water gets through to the drug, which dissolves and is slowly released through the coating. Each pellet releases the treatment at a different time, according to the structure and thickness of the outer layer of polymer.

Some controlled-release products are already on the market, including Volmax for asthma and the Continus system for treating moderate to severe pain, angina, asthma, and vitamin and mineral deficiencies. However, the race is on to improve on the methods of delivery.

The Ocusert is a tiny device smaller than a contact lens which is inserted just under the eyelid and can gradually release a week's supply of eye drops for glaucoma.

Nel Graham, professor of pure and applied chemistry at the University of Strathclyde, expects to see the advent of drugs which are sensitive to the glucose levels in a diabetic's bloodstream and which will release insulin accordingly.

"The problem with insulin and with all the products from the biotechnology revolution is that they can easily be digested before they have a chance to work. Putting them in a polymer carrier is one way of getting around the problem."

Some patients with prostate cancer are now given a 28-day drug implant as an alternative to daily injections or surgery.

The drug Zoladex is incorporated in a polymer carrier the size of a large grain of rice, and injected just under the skin of the abdomen. The carrier is gradually broken down by the body as the drug, an anti-hormone, is slowly released.

Even the ultimate of the hi-tech treatments — the "magic bullets" — can be improved by attachment to a polymer. The magic bullet consists of a laboratory-grown antibody armed with a drug treatment which will latch on to a cancer cell.

Prof Graham explains: "If you use a water-soluble polymer to carry the magic bullet, you can load the antibody with much more of the drug. This means you are increasing the dose while reducing harmful effects on other parts of the body."

He says the most exciting development to come will be pulsed-system delivery methods, which release their drugs at pre-set times. This would be particularly useful for the forgetful, or those who need continuous drug therapy while they sleep. But at present, the pulsed systems are a closely guarded secret.

## JOBS

## The case of the missing staff

Well-paid jobs abound for those with the latest software-engineering skills

The demand for information technology staff with experience of the latest generation of software engineering technologies is outstripping supply.

Average rates of more than £50,000 a year are being paid to freelance staff with these skills while independent consultants can command fees of up to £120,000. Salaries for permanent positions are 20 per cent higher than average and can go up to £60,000 for the consultant.

Companies are turning to the latest generation of computer-aided software engineering (CASE) products to improve the quality and reduce the cost of developing software applications. But the technology is complex and requires a different development methodology.

"We came from a traditional development background like thousands of other users, and we don't have all the skills," says one IT manager using the technology for the first time.

Computer-services companies are rushing to support these users, but are also finding it difficult to recruit staff.

Many software houses and manufacturers are also developing CASE products and are looking to advise and train users in these techniques.

"There has been a steady rise in demand from companies over the past three years. Staff with CASE skills are very much at a premium at present," Adam Gardner, recruitment consultant for the Computer People agency (01-836 8411), says.

Mr Gardner says contract rates of between £1,000 and £1,400 a week are available for analysts specializing in CASE, but this can go to £2500 to £600 a day for those "at strategy level", who can advise companies on implementation.

The same trend is evident in the permanent job market. Ashley Steinhausen, managing director of Logistics Recruitment (01-741 8511), says that a recent applicant with only one year's CASE

experience had 20 companies chasing him.

"We could always do with more CASE staff as there is a significant increase in demand. Before, the jobs were in research and development, but now it is right across the spectrum from financial firms to manufacturing. And the consultancy firms and system houses are crying out for staff," Mr Steinhausen says.

He reports that a programmer with one year's CASE experience could earn between £18,000 to £20,000 rising to £25,000 for the consultant with a couple of years' CASE experience backed up by three to five years in the IT industry.

Behind the trend is the adoption by many governments of the Structured Systems Analysis and Design Method (SSADM) standard for software development. It is already widely used by commercial firms.

Edward Vourdo, writing in his book *Modern Structural Analysis*, says that while only 10 per cent of businesses are using these techniques, more than half will be by 1995.

Computer suppliers are rushing to introduce CASE products and recently IBM and DEC introduced their own, ensuring its future.

Those wanting to jump on the CASE bandwagon will find it difficult to find training, says David Fairbairn, managing director of James Martin Associates (0784 245058). He reports that an advertisement for CASE staff brought 750 responses, of which four were selected by his firm.

"Those with CASE experience are in a commanding position in career terms and will be for some time to come. And there is a massive requirement for training and developing CASE skills in the UK," Mr Fairbairn says.

The best CASE staff are those straight out of university and not fixed into the old ways, he says.

Leslie Tilley

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## PARKINSON'S DISEASE

## FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT  
by Malcolm Brown

## Multi-million-pound fight on all fronts

Life has improved for Britain's  
100,000 Parkinson's victims, who  
now have their own help group

**P**arkinson's Disease, which afflicts more than 100,000 people in Britain today, has been known since biblical times and was definitively described more than 170 years ago by the eponymous surgeon-apothecary, James Parkinson.

Yet the Parkinson's Disease Society (PDS), which helps Parkinson's sufferers with information on the condition and by raising funds for research projects, is only 21 years old.

The society began in an almost haphazard fashion when in the late 1960s Mari Jenkins, a successful businesswoman, found that one of her elder sisters, Sarah, had developed Parkinson's Disease.

Miss Jenkins was astonished to discover there was no society for Parkinsonian patients and their families, so she set one up.

Two decades later the society has about 40,000 members, raises about £2 million a year, and has 160 branches. Another 40 branches are being established. One of the prime

**'We cannot allow vital research to go by default for want of funding'**

concerns of the society, says Anthony Kilmister, its executive director, is providing accurate information and advice for sufferers. The prognosis for patients is vastly improved.

— Parkinson's Disease does not nowadays normally shorten their lives — but being told that they have Parkinson's can still knock patients for six and often leave them unable to take in what the doctor is saying.

Mr Kilmister says: "I doubt if they would hear the rest of what the doctor says after hearing those magic words. They go home and think, 'My God, am I going to die from it? What about my children?'"

Information in layman's language can quickly dispel those fears. "It enables people to say, 'I'm not going to die

from this. It's not a killer", Mr Kilmister says.

"Life expectancy is normal. Whereas in days gone by it was not normal, people now live the same life span as the normal population."

These medical facts can then be backed up by welfare help — advice to sufferers and carers about the financial and other types of benefits that are available.

The society also funds research. It is backing projects at many British universities and research centres.

The work covers everything from implants of foetal tissues into the Parkinsonian brain, in the hope that the youthful cells will "rewire" the brain, to the study of chemically induced Parkinson's Disease.

This year it is trying to raise £2.5 million over and above its normal income to pay for a huge research drive into the disease.

"Charities provide something like 60 per cent of funding for medical research today," Mr Kilmister says, "whereas the Medical Research Council, universities and other statutory bodies account for about 40 per cent. This is a total reversal of the sort of percentages that obtained a few years ago. We cannot allow a situation to arise where vital medical research goes by default for want of funding. We want more from the Government and more from the public. We want both, not either/or."

The society is adopting something of a scatter-gun approach to research, spreading available resources across a wide spectrum of projects. Last year it spent nearly £750,000 on research.

"We want to put our money on all the horses," Mr Kilmister explains. "Any one of a whole range of investigations could come up with the answer."



Playing a part: Professor Jenner has a blood test himself in the interests of research.

## 'A cure in the next 10 years'

Scientists doing research into the disease are optimistic now that so many projects are increasing the knowledge of the neurologists

**T**here is no cure for Parkinson's Disease yet, but scientists believe that there could be within five or 10 years. Their optimism is based on important advances in the understanding of the possible causes of the disease and in innovative treatments such as brain cell transplantation, which researchers hope may effectively give sufferers' brains a new lease of life.

No one factor has yet been isolated as the (or even a) definitive cause of Parkinson's, but there are a number of strong candidates.

Professor Peter Jenner, head of the pharmacology group in the biomedical sciences division of King's College, London, who is a leading researcher in the field, suggests three possibilities.

FIRST, he says, it may be something to do with the ageing of the nervous system. The only factor that appears clearly to influence the disease is advancing age.

Most people who develop Parkinson's tend to be over 40 and the chances of contracting it increase with age.

"There is a gradual decline in the number of cells in your brain with age," Professor Jenner says. "One of the hypotheses put forward is that Parkinson's may be an acceleration of this ageing

process such that you get down to a critical number below which you develop the symptoms earlier than you would do by the natural process."

It is an interesting idea, Professor Jenner says, but there is not, in reality, a lot of evidence for it.

SECOND, there is the so-called toxic insult hypothesis. This suggests that at some time in our life, probably even in the womb, an environmental toxin or some other form of poison gets into the brain and kills off dopamine neurons. These are the nerve cells that contain dopamine, the chemical messenger that carries electrical messages from one cell to the next.

Apparently strong evidence for the toxic insult theory came to light dramatically a few years ago when an American neurologist, Bill Langston, spotted a group of drug addicts who suddenly developed Parkinsonian symptoms.

He found that they had all taken a derivative of penicillin, which had been contaminated with another substance, MPTP.

"We now know," Professor Jenner says, "that administration of MPTP leads to a destruction of dopamine cells in the brain. In other words, it mimics the pathology of Parkinson's Disease and it also produces the clinical

symptoms of Parkinson's Disease."

The flaw in the suggestion that MPTP might be directly involved in Parkinsonism is that the chemical is not widespread in the environment. Most people would never be exposed to it. So researchers have instead started looking for substances that are chemically related to MPTP.

"It's a simple molecule," Professor Jenner says. "It has got a simple structure and if you look at many other molecules that occur naturally or in our environment that structure is contained within many of those molecules. So it is possible that there is a whole family of toxins of similar structure out there somewhere."

Another problem with the toxic insult hypothesis is that if there was a toxin in the environment you might expect pockets of Parkinson's Disease in the population where the toxin was present in particularly high concentrations. But in practice you do not get that. You do not get epidemics of Parkinson's Disease.

"So we do not think it's environment alone," Professor Jenner says. "It may be that there is also some component of genetic susceptibility to toxins of that kind. There is evidence that people with Parkinson's Disease are less able to break down some toxins that could come into the body."

THIRD, there is a particularly intriguing line of research suggesting that MPTP may be telling us not so much about itself or similar chemicals but about precisely why the brain cells are vulnerable to insults.

"A lot of time has been spent looking at how MPTP works," Professor Jenner says, "and we now know that it's not toxic itself, but it is metabolized to another substance, which we call MPP+, and that substance is taken up by mitochondria, which are the power houses of the cells, the energy suppliers of the cells. It poisons the mitochondria."

What that tells the scientists is that if something can get

The disease: Parkinson's is a disorder of the central nervous system. It produces symptoms affecting movement and speech. A key factor is a shortage of the chemical messenger dopamine in the brain but scientists have still not found the definitive cause. The symptoms: The three main symptoms are (a) tremor (b) rigidity and (c) slowness of movement. (a) Tremor is usually worst when the patient is at rest. It disappears when he is asleep and is usually less when the patient is performing a voluntary movement. Amidity makes the tremor worse. (b) Rigidity, or stiffness of the muscles, is less obvious than tremor but often more incapacitating. Such tasks as getting out of chairs or

fastening buttons become difficult. (c) Slowness of movement means walking is an effort. In more severe cases the patient may have a quick, shuffling step with the body bent forward. The symptoms may occur alone or in combination and in one or more parts of the body. Incidence: Parkinson's is believed to affect more than 100,000 people in Britain alone. The average age of onset is about 55 but one in seven patients contracts it in the thirties and forties. The Royal College of Physicians estimates that two in every 1,000 of the population are sufferers. Over the age of 60 the incidence rises to one in every 100. Treatment: There is no cure

yet, but treatment can relieve many of the symptoms. The most widespread treatment involves the drug levodopa. Levodopa is the precursor of dopamine, the messenger chemical that helps to transmit electrical messages from one cell to the next. It is administered by mouth and can restore the dopamine level towards normal. Before levodopa many patients were severely disabled or dead within 10 years of the onset of the disease. With modern levodopa treatment and other therapy, life expectancy is more or less the same as that of a similar age-matched population. Most patients can remain gainfully employed and lead active lives for many years.

cells — is showing a significant improvement.

Scanning of the subject now shows dopamine-containing cells in his brain that were not there before surgery.

"So in this one particular man there is good evidence that something is happening," Professor Jenner says. "It may well be that as these cells grow you will see a bigger patch of cells in his brain and his improvement will increase and increase."

Even if the transplants work well in human patients, Professor Jenner says, we must still be cautious about claiming cures.

"These people have a disease process going on which has killed off their own dopamine neurons," he says. "We do not know that the same disease process will not also kill off the new neurons."

The power of the rewiring, then, may not be great enough to counter the disease.

"We know it is a technique that will experimentally work," Professor Jenner says. "What we do not know is how a whole range of factors would affect its clinical application."

"That is the problem at the present time and that is why I say five to 10 years, because it seems to me that although we clearly need to proceed with transplantation in humans, to look at some of these factors, it is not going to be the panacea that people are hoping for until we have gone through this period of trial and error."

But with that strong caveat Professor Jenner points to impressive work being done in Sweden by Dr Olle Lindvall at the University Hospital, Lund. One of Dr Lindvall's patients — a recipient of foetal

## Parkinson's Disease

Ever since James Parkinson first described the 'shaking palsy' which now bears his name, medical science has sought ways to combat this distressing and disabling condition.

## A chemical imbalance

The discovery that there is a chemical imbalance in a specific part of the brain was an important first step towards developing a treatment. Restoring the balance has not proved to be a straightforward process. The chemical which is lacking, dopamine, cannot pass into the brain easily when given by mouth.

## Can be helped

At Merck Sharp & Dohme, in the 1960s, scientists found they could overcome this problem by giving a natural precursor of dopamine, which crosses readily into the brain where it is converted to dopamine. When combined with a special inhibitor substance its effectiveness is markedly improved, as more precursor can enter the brain before it is destroyed by the body's own enzymes.

## Thanks to MSD

MSD has been helping sufferers from Parkinson's Disease for over 15 years, but the effort to improve the outlook for sufferers still further, goes on.

## Research continues

MSD is a subsidiary of Merck & Co. Inc., the largest and most successful research based pharmaceutical company in the world. The company philosophy is one of innovation through research and this approach is being carried through in the research effort devoted to Parkinson's Disease.

## To find a cure

MSD has concentrated its worldwide research into diseases of the brain and nervous system at its Neuroscience Research Centre here in the UK. MSD scientists are working towards a better understanding of Parkinson's Disease and its causes. The goal of this research is to provide relief for sufferers and ultimately to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease.

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## FOCUS

## PARKINSON'S DISEASE

How donors are helping to find the answers

# Stored brains may hold key

The Parkinson's Disease Society has nearly 400 deep-frozen brains in its central London brain bank. Half of them are the brains of people who died with the disease. The other half come from people who died without any known neurological disorder.

The healthy tissue is just as important as the Parkinsonian tissue because it provides scientists with control material for their studies.

The brains are vital to the search for the causes and the cure of Parkinson's Disease, says Dr Andrew Lees, the neurologist who is co-director of the bank.

"If one looks at the story of Parkinson's Disease so far," he says, "many of the major advances in our understanding have come from studying post-mortem tissue. For example, at the beginning of the century it was discovered that the black substance in the brain stem was damaged in

Parkinson's Disease and that really gave us the first clue as to the site of the problem in the illness."

Donated brains arrive at the brain bank in two halves. One half is pickled in formalin, a solution of formaldehyde in water; the other is frozen. The pickled half is used in old-fashioned histological studies, which look at the nerve cells. The frozen half is used for such things as chemical analysis.

Study of post-mortem tissues has led to several recent discoveries.

One piece of research suggests there may be many more people at risk of Parkinson's Disease than had previously been thought.

Research scientists have been investigating the presence of so-called Lewy bodies in the brain cells.

The bull's-eye-shaped Lewy bodies are among the key markers for the disease. But Lewy bodies have also been found, Dr Lees says, in about

8 per cent of people who showed no signs of neurological problems while they were alive. The researchers wanted to know whether there might be any other defect in these so-called "normal" brains with Lewy bodies.

It now appears that this group has a considerable cell loss in the substantia nigra, the part of the brain implicated in Parkinsonism. The loss, Dr Lees says, is not as great as in patients with Parkinson's Disease, but greater than that in "controls" without Lewy bodies.

The brains have a deficiency of the essential chemical messenger dopamine that seems to be intermediate between the deficiency suffered by Parkinson's patients and that of the controls without Lewy bodies. "This is quite persuasive evidence to argue that we may be dealing with the tip of the iceberg in Parkinson's Disease and that there are up to 8 per cent of ordinary elderly people who, if



Vital organs: Dr Lees with sections of the donated brains that are used for research

they had lived longer, would have gone on to develop the disease," Dr Lees says.

"If we all lived to be 100 and our studies are right, then you might say that as many as one in 10 might get the disease. The prevalence at the moment is about one in 100, so there might be 10 times more people at risk than actually get the disease with the age at which we all die at the moment."

Because Lewy bodies sometimes also show up in the nerve cells of other organs of the body, the brain bank is now asking donors to give additional tissues from, for

example, the spinal cord, the adrenal glands and the bladder.

Dr Lees says that the society's brain bank is probably unique in that patients beneath their tissues while they are still alive.

"This avoids many of the difficulties of obtaining material at death," he says. "They let their spouses, relatives and solicitors know that they want to do this while they are still living."

Research can be done on the brain tissue only if it is in perfect physiological condition when it arrives at the bank, so a sophisticated coun-

try-wide network has been set up to ensure safe delivery.

After a donor has completed a bequest form, the family doctor is asked to refer the patient to a consultant neurologist in the "Parkinson's Disease Research Group". After this first examination the case is reviewed once a year until the patient dies.

When the brain arrives it is accompanied by a mass of data about the donor collected over the years.

"That is very useful," Dr Lees says. "I think we do that better than any other brain bank. We've got good clinical documentation here."

## A radical who gave his name to the 'palsy'

One of the less well known facts about James Parkinson, the surgeon-apothecary after whom Parkinson's Disease is named — although Parkinson himself simply called it the shaking palsy — is that in 1794 he was examined on oath before the Privy Council in connection with the so-called "Pop-gun Plot".

The plot was an alleged conspiracy to assassinate George III in the theatre by means of a poisoned dart.

It seems an odd sort of business for any medical man to become mixed up in, but then Parkinson was no ordinary medic.

He was a geologist and palaeontologist of note and something of a radical intellectual as well, forever pamphleteering, either anonymously or under the nom de plume "Old Hubert", against social inequality.

It was this radical activity that led to the problem of the Pop-gun Plot.

Many radical thinkers and professionals in the late 18th century banded themselves together into secret discussion groups called

"corresponding societies" and it was one of these, the London Corresponding Society, of which Parkinson was a member. This society found itself implicated in the alleged plot to kill George III and start a revolution. The affair seemed to cool Parkinson's reforming zeal.

According to the consultant neurologist Dr Gerald Stern in his preface to an important new book on Parkinson's Disease, "he ceased to write pamphlets and directed his energies towards matters scientific and medical".

The work for which Parkinson is now remembered is, of course, his "Essay on the Shaking Palsy", which was published in 1817. The book was and still is a classic of lucidity. The disease, he

to scare horses and tells them how to cope with wanton, careless or mischievous behaviour "from which alarming injuries so often proceed". Dr Stern says: "Parkinson warns boys never

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\* Parkinson's Disease, edited by Gerald Stern, is published by Chapman and Hall at £7.95.



Skiing, not suffering: Philip Young, appeal chairman

## The patient raises the cash

Philip Young, chairman of the PDS Appeal Working Party that is trying to raise £2.5 million for research over and above the society's normal intake of funds, is himself a Parkinson's sufferer. The disease struck him unusually young, in the early 1980s, when he was 45.

He was destined for one of the most senior jobs at the National Westminster Bank, and had just completed a course at Harvard Business School. One day, after a gardening session, he could not keep his left arm still. There was a tremor. His doctor and a colleague examined him. All he could catch from their conversation was murmured agreement about something called the ratchet effect.

He recalls: "The doctor got up, walked over to the door with me and said, 'They can treat these things with drugs these days, you know'."

The realization that he might have more than a slight problem was disconcerting and the eventual confirmation that he had Parkinson's was

A City high-flyer who decided to be positive and help other sufferers

frightening. Mr Young immediately began what he calls the "numbers game", a euphemistic way of saying he tried to work out how long he had to live.

He says: "Most people, when they've been diagnosed, do this because there is a lot of misinformation about Parkinson's Disease. Nowadays you live your normal lifespan. At one time you would probably live only seven years. Naturally, I did those calculations based on misinformation and I was terribly depressed for about a week to a point where I think I could have done something pretty damaging to myself. I had never felt depressed like that in my life before."

He saw the crisis week through with the help of his wife, Christine, a head teacher. "I went to her school, sat in her study for a week and just thought the thing

through," he says. He decided the only way he could cope was to bury himself in work and other activities so that he would not have time to think.

A couple of months later he contacted the Parkinson's Disease Society and found the prognosis was much more optimistic — and the elation was enormous. Mr Young's own contribution to the society now is helping to organize the special research funds appeal. He has persuaded Lord Alexander, the NatWest chairman, to chair a high-powered appeal committee that will gently twist corporate arms for large cheques and to

become president of the Parkinson's Disease Society. Meanwhile, he quietly tries to help other senior people in the City and industry who have Parkinson's.

He says: "I think I'm able to help. I say, 'Look, reassure your wife. Your lifestyle's not going to change. There are certain things that will be more difficult, but it is not the end of the world.'"

He is his own best advertisement. When his wife found she had breast cancer three years ago, it could have depressed him. Instead it gave him added resolve to get on with life. One method he chooses is skiing — "black runs", the toughest grade of ski run, such as the Schilthorn in the Swiss Alps.

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## CYCLING

# Blower steps off racing treadmill for a new life

By Peter Bryan

THE treadmill of international racing has ended the career, at the age of 25, of Maria Blower, the outstanding woman rider in Britain.

"Enough is enough," she said yesterday at her home in Ulverscroft, Leicestershire as she hung up her wheels for the last time. "Now I can do all the things that I have had to forgo since I started racing 11 years ago as a schoolgirl. It's time I led a normal life."

The Commonwealth Games in Auckland proved to be the straw which broke the camel's back. One of the hottest pre-race favourites, she punctured at a vital stage of the road race and her chances of a medal disappeared with the air in her tyres. She came twelfth, six minutes behind the winner, Kathryn Watt, of Australia.

"I thought then that I would retire; all that winter training, never letting up even on Christmas Day or New Year's Day and then nothing to show for it," she said.

When she returned home, her mood was different and she joined her amateur club in France with whom she had raced most of last season with a programme that included five 10-day stage events.

## MOTOR RACING

## Prost backs anti-dope tests for race drivers

IMOLA (AP) — Alain Prost, the Formula One world champion, was quoted yesterday as saying that anti-doping tests on drivers, which will be initiated at the San Marino Grand Prix next month, are a normal and necessary measure.

Prost, who is testing his Ferrari for the third event of the 1990 world championship, said in an interview with *Corriere della Sera*, the Milan daily: "It's increasingly difficult and dangerous to drive cars which are becoming faster and faster... we are professionals with very

important contracts. Thus everything must be very clear between the drivers and the external world."

Prost, who drove a Ferrari to victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix last month, said he aimed at a second consecutive championship victory in Imola, the home track of the Italian team.

"If Ferrari wins in Imola it means that it's the best car in this year's championship," he said. "However, I believe that on this [fast] circuit McLaren-Honda will be difficult to beat."

## Michael Seely meets the master of Greystoke with designs on a third National victory

# Bullish Richards gives Rinus the nod

THE piercing blue eyes widened as Gordon Richards nodded emphatically at the dark head of Rinus with his distinguished white markings on the forehead.

"There you are," rode the famous West Country burr, "this could be the winner of the National. He's spot on and what beats him, wins."

Exhausted, opinionated and sometimes hot tempered, the 59-year-old son of a Bath timber merchant still dominates the north-western racing scene, a role he has played since moving to Penrith in Cumbria 22 years ago.

A battered cap and weather-beaten Barbour coat had clearly borne the brunt of most of the storms from the nearby fells.

But despite a serious illness last year, the trainer is still full of confident energy and optimism. "Neither Rinus nor I were right last year," he said. "I lost a kidney and the horse had problems with his breathing. But he's been hobbled and is top of the pops."

The word has been abroad recently that in Rinus, rather than Conclusive and The Langholm Dyer, his two other probable runners, Richards has a possible successor to Lucius and Halo Dandy, Greystoke's previous Grand National winners, in 1978 and 1984.

Like Rinus, The Langholm Dyer was resting in his box after his morning exercise. But Conclusive, having bruised himself in a recent fall at Kelso, was having treatment in what appeared to work like a vibrating electric blanket. "He's been a bit stiff. But this treatment really gets the muscles going. He'll feel a different horse when it's finished."

Although perhaps a trifle lucky when winning Haydock Park's Greenall Whitley Gold Cup as Willsford fell at the last, the nine-year-old showed most of the ability that had

seen him win nine races two seasons ago.

"He's bound to improve a great deal for that," says the trainer. "It was only his second race of the season as, like Conclusive, he'd had a bad attack of coughing and I was lucky to get him to Haydock. I told Richard Dunwoody to look after him, to ride him to the trip. As he was sure to need it."

"He's going to go to Liverpool with as good a chance as both my previous winners."

Richards added: "Ideally, Rinus likes a cut in the ground, but he has won on the firm."

Yesterday, after a sharp overnight frost, the National horses' work had to be modified. "I just took Rinus walking first and then rode him in a sharp spin with Carrick Hill Lad on the all-weather," the trainer reported.

The previous Sunday, the National hopes were taken away for their traditional final serious work. Richards himself rode Rinus.

"We call it going to Ron Barry's, but it isn't. It's on common land. It's a good 1½ miles on lovely, lovely old turf. It's on the drag — quite a pull. You want a fit horse to go there. It's a marvellous place."

"Afterwards, I heard Doughty tell the travelling head lad: 'That horse is right. It was carrying the boss up there as well as any of us.'"

Like Rinus, Conclusive has come to his best at the right time. Things were going well at Kelso. He came to the second last 10 lengths clear and cantering. He stood off too far and rolled over. He's got some sort of chance and is a good jumper."

With only 8st 7lb in the long handicap, The Langholm Dyer is unlikely to make the final cut. But if the firm-going plodder gets in, Liam O'Hara, Richards's 5lb claimer, will take the mount. "We put him up when the horse was second in the Elder, as Phil Tuck had retired unexpectedly after winning the previous race. It's been his ride ever since."

Of Rinus's possible opponents, Richards has a healthy respect for not only the three Cheltenham winners, but also for Arthur Stephenson's pair, The Thinker and Durham Edition.

"That Call Collect," he said,



Rinus, the main National hope of Gordon Richards, enjoys a smooch of grass at Greystoke as the finishing touches are put to his Aintree preparation

"you just wouldn't know how good he is. And his trainer, John Parkes, he knows what he's doing."

Interestingly, however, Richards makes the point that winners at Cheltenham are often feeling the effects of their excursions at Aintree.

Statistics certainly prove the trainer's point. Nicolaus Silver, in 1961, is the only horse to have won at the National Hunt Festival and also captured the National in the same year in the post-war era.

Greystoke is enjoying its usual fine season. Richards is presently lying sixth in the trainers' table. Carrick Hill Lad, Tartan Trademark and Tartan Tailor, runners at Aintree this afternoon, have been contributors to his total of 62 winners of races worth over £230,000.

Traditionally, northern jumping trainers have held their own with their more fashionable southern counterparts over the years. But with more and more owners turn-

ing to jumping from the Flat, the position has become more difficult in recent years.

"When you go to the Irish sales, you see what's going on," Richards says. "Those Lambourn trainers, like Nicky Henderson, Oliver Sherwood and Charlie Brooks, have got money pouring out of their ears. And as for Jenny Pittman, she's got so much money to spend that I'm sure the Irish are happier to see her arriving at Dublin airport than the Pope."

## SPORTS LETTERS

## Sport should be on agenda

From Mr Harm B. Tegelaars

Sir, Scotland has been about "privatization" and "sale of the century" in its articles on the national sports centres (March 29 and 30). These centres are held in trust by the Sports Council, who are merely tending to tender out for the day-to-day management of the centres. Ownership will not change hands and the appointed management will have to work to a very clear brief from the Sports Council. The new management will be charged with making the best use of the best, both in terms of facilities and services. The contractor should be making contact with as many sports governing bodies as possible, to see how they might be of use. The fact is the national sports centres could enjoy increased usage, with better operational management. I would like to remind Sir Coe that he would be better using his time getting sport and leisure on the political agenda, where I am informed it does not feature in the first 24 headings, despite the fact that millions of people both enjoy participating and watching.

Yours sincerely,  
HARM B. TEGELAARS,  
Farnham House,  
Langton Green, Kent.

## Council answerable

From the Director General of the Sports Council

Sir, It is important to correct some impressions left by Denis Howell's letter (March 15) about the responsibility of the Sports Council.

First, it is not the Council's fault if ministers decide to appoint members in a manner of which Mr Howell disapproves. There is, however, nothing in the Council's royal charter (which both predates and has rather more force than Mr Howell's white paper) which obliges the minister to accept unquestioningly all or any nominations submitted by the Sports Council of Physical Recreation.

Second, the Sports Council is answerable to Parliament for the use it makes of its grant-aid; indeed the director general appeared before the Public Accounts Committee last year, as accounting officer, to do just that. It was, as I recall, the CIPRA's lack of accountability to Parliament of which the PAC complained in its subsequent report.

Finally, it is for the governing bodies to account to the Sports Council for the grants which the latter make to them, not the other way round. That said, the Council has made strenuous efforts recently to improve its consultative arrangements with the governing bodies, and I am sure that a much better mutual understanding is developing.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID PICKUP,  
Director General,  
The Sports Council,  
16 Upper Woburn Place, WC1.

## Over-rate penalty required

From Mr Stephen Rumball

Sir, For West Indies to avoid defeat in a Test match by bowling only eight overs in one hour and 17 overs in the last two hours is clearly in breach of the spirit of Test cricket and should for the future be specifically included in breach of the regulations. This is not just a case of spin bowlers who bowl fast, equally strongly had England resorted to such tactics.

My view on sport generally, and cricket in particular, is that we should have the minimum of artificiality in the rules. It is important for the game to flow freely and naturally without interruption from overly officious referees or umpires or (heaven forbid) consideration of slow-motion replays.

However, the situation that arose on the final day in Port of Spain is bound to happen again, whether in first class light in the West Indies, or in Pakistan or India, where the requirement to bowl a minimum number of overs in the day cannot be properly enforced because of the light conditions. To prevent what might tactically be termed "professional gamesmanship" in the Test and County Cricket Board should introduce a new regulation providing for runs to be added to the total of the batting side (presumably as extras) if the fielding side did not meet an over-rate of, say, 12 overs an hour.

The regulation might, for example, provide for an extra run for each ball short of the 12 over minimum. In Port of Spain this would have resulted in 37 runs being added to England's second innings score (144 balls bowled in 107 balls bowled) and a deserved victory.

Such a regulation would clearly need to be flexible enough to deal with special situations such as injury to a player or pitch invasions, when the umpires should be empowered to deduct overs from the minimum as is currently the case with rain or bad light.

If the agreement of a majority of the Test-playing countries is required, this should be forthcoming as for any country to vote against the regulation would be to condone (if not to actively encourage) this type of unsportsmanlike behaviour.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN RUMBALL,  
13 Orchard Road, St Margarets,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.

## Facilities outdated

From Mr Stephen Clues

Sir, The Wembley experiences of Mr L. Gwyther (Sports Letters March 29) received shocking confirmation at the match between England and Brazil only days later. Having spent £20 for a stand seat, I was then treated to the most scandalously outdated facilities — a cold, decrepit stadium of tiny, uncomfortable seats and a total absence of civilized amenities or refreshments. My view of one goal-mouth was obscured by a girder, and of the scoreboard by the roof, so that no one in my part of

## A question of impartiality

From Mr D.B. Ziff

Sir, English press and television coverage of major sporting events is not as impartial as many would like to think. The West Indies' "delaying" tactics are routinely — and justifiably — condemned. Maradona is pilloried for "scoring" a headed goal to knock England out of the World Cup.

At the same time, though, an English defender's blatant handling in last week's game against Scotland goes barely a passing reference in the newspapers — and certainly no headline treatment — whilst television commentators can scarcely conceal their delight at England's "good fortune".

What makes this even worse is that the match was supposedly a friendly, with nothing at stake — even then English sportsmanship was clearly lacking.

When an English player uses his hands to push back a ball which had clearly crossed the goal-line and is not prepared to admit either the handling or the fact that the ball had crossed the line, he should not be so quick and self-righteous in our condemnation of other countries' sportsmen whose desire to win overrides their sense of fair play.

Yours truly,  
DAVID B. ZIFF,  
New House,  
Woodman Lane,  
Sewardstonebury, E4.

## Change of tune

From Mr D.N. McCarthy Brown

Sir, For the second successive year, England's rugby union championship hopes came crashing down at the final hurdle — and, once again, the decisive try was conceded at the start of the second half.

Clearly, England should change their half-time routine: perhaps they should sing some rousing anthem at that stage of the match. But what song for England?

"Land of Hope and glory" is too imperialist, "Greensleeves" is too sentimental, "Jerusalem" is too prosaic, almost as distant, it would seem, as an England grand slam?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MCCARTHY BROWN,  
Mole End,  
Burcot,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire.

From Mr J.L. Watson  
Sir, "Flower of Scotland" is dreadful — but "The Floral Dance" might do for England.

Yours faithfully,  
J.L. WATSON,  
The Coach House,  
Hillside,  
Montrose,  
Angus.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 01-782 5046

## Conflicting attitudes in Cambridge rowing

From Mr Chris Atkin

Sir, Following articles in *The Times* (March 31) and elsewhere I am beginning to worry about the comments of Mark Lees, the university coach, on Cambridge college rowing.

As captain of Lady Margaret Boat Club in 1989 I was approached by Lees at the end of Henley Royal Regatta with an invitation to represent Cambridge in Istanbul. In return the most promising members of the LMBC crew (head of the river in the regatta) were to be given a place on the Cambridge crew. The LMBC crew were to be given a place on the Cambridge crew. The LMBC crew were to be given a place on the Cambridge crew.

These reactions were perhaps predictable from a crew which had had to work very hard to outperform technically superior Cambridge rivals and was somewhat jaded. However we did have one old Blue and our best novice was sent to the trials and did quite well, staying on the fringe of the freshmen's squad.

One can see how the comments about colleges withholding oarsmen from Cambridge University BC to strengthen their own crews came from. I bitterly resent the implication that the Lady Margaret club coach and club members think that rowing for college is more important than representing the university. If the comments aren't that keen, they wouldn't even last out the pressure of CUBC trials; in any case it can only be their choice.

Lees has conducted what amounts to a feud with the

college clubs because of his misunderstanding of what the best rowers talent enjoys and how it should be used. He should accept that to 90 per cent of the Cambridge world rowing is just "messing about in boats" and that the participation of the many justifies the huge amounts spent on college rowing.

The remaining 10 per cent aim to perform at their best in the time they have available; they may not be good enough to impress throughout the summer regatta season, but they concentrate their efforts on the races which mean the most to them, in this case the university races. Anyone who has written off a Cambridge college crew after a regatta should try racing them on the Saturday before the May. Those who wonder at the growing isolation of college crews should ask how much it costs to enter and travel to ARA races, and then look at the bank balance of the average student.

Lees should put his own house in order if he really wants to win the Boat Race. In 1989 the race was not lost on coxing; it was lost by the egos of the Cambridge crew. Every oarsman who has made the same mistake of complacency must have felt his heart sink when he saw the psychological state of the Cambridge crew before the race, confirmed by their listless performance in the boat.

Even the spirited performance of 1990 is marred by Lees's lack of management skills. In the two previous years the average weight was often below 12 stone. In 1992 D.H.E. McCowen was a fifth-year student aged 22 and was slowed to row only after some debate. Nowadays they are sometimes 27 at Oxford.

My advice to the CUBC is to restrict Lees to technique and

training; he is indeed an excellent coach.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS ATKIN,  
St John's College, Cambridge.

From Mr J.H. Lee  
Sir, Your third leader, Eight men in a boat (April 2), does not really appreciate the Oxford rowing situation. It is not the weight of a crew which determines their ability to win. Oxford's superiority over the last 15 years has been due to experience — they have attracted many oarsmen of international repute, doing postgraduate courses. This year's race was notable in that Cambridge, although almost certain that they would not win, never admitted it, and produced their best performance under perfect conditions until they were right behind Oxford. After Harrods they were somewhat handicapped by rowing in Oxford's wake but later kept out of the direct line and in fact made up one or two seconds. It was the Oxford cox who by clever steering (learned at Westminster School) gained them about half a length near the mile post.

In the two previous years Cambridge made a mess of things. They were favourites in 1989 and caught a crab in 1988. This year all the other races were won by Cambridge, notably the lightweight men's. I am sure Goldie would probably not have beaten Isis if the race had reached the finish.

When I was up at Cambridge I had 10 successful wins in the Boat Race — in those days the average weight was often below 12 stone. In 1932 D.H.E. McCowen was a fifth-year student aged 22 and was slowed to row only after some debate. Nowadays they are sometimes 27 at Oxford.

Yours faithfully,  
J.H. LEE,  
34 Gresson Court,  
Giron, Cambridge.

1888 appears to be more representative of his own times.

I possess a photograph of my father (born in 1863) with the Marlborough Football Lower Boy XX of 1876, and the whole team is dressed as in Henry's picture with cotton long-sleeved shirts and white breeches tucked into black stockings.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS HENRIE FINCH,  
White Oaks, The Fairway,  
Weybridge, Surrey.

From Mr R.A. Green

Sir, I wonder whether the organizers of the charity event to underline the "youth in rugby" theme are aware that the late William Webb Ellis is buried in the cemetery at Menton, Alpes Maritimes.

It would seem a good opportunity for the relays of running teenagers to pass by Menton and pay tribute to the man whose game has given, and is still giving, joy to so many millions of sport-loving people.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD GREEN,  
140 Allée des Lavandes,  
St Paul,  
Alpes Maritimes, France.

## Decision not in question

From Mr John Garrett

Sir, I was disappointed to read the report on the Boat Race (April 2), which suggested that my decision, as umpire, to disqualify Isis in their race against Goldie was controversial and open to question.

Allow me to quote article 7 of the agreement, under which the Boat Race is rowed:

In the event of a foul occurring either crew may claim; to the umpire, who the other crew be disqualified. If the crew making the claim is in its proper course, and the crew against whom the claim is made was out of its proper course, the latter shall be disqualified unless the foul was so slight as not to influence the race.

Clearly the foul was not slight, as Goldie were unable to continue rowing due to damage to the boat. The crucial question was therefore: who were on the proper course? At the time of the foul Goldie were on their correct station. Isis were not. This has not been in dispute from any quarter.

I am therefore confident that the decision to disqualify Isis was not only correct but also, though it may be factually correct to describe the decision as controversial, was correct.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN GARRETT,  
6 Beall Road,  
East Sheen, SW14.

## Facilities eroded

From Mr D.H. Drury

Sir, Your excellent coverage on the resurgence of Southampton (Focus, March 29) does not mention that in the building of Queens Village, with a marina of 450 berths, there is no space provided for that most civilized and non-polluting of sports: rowing.

As a member of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council for some years I have noted the steady erosion of the facilities which the rowing fraternity obtain in the Southampton area. Small clubs like BFC, Oakport and Weymouth are increasingly difficult to accommodate under threat or already demolished and the water on which they row is increasingly limited by projects like Queens Village and Spitfire Quay.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK DRURY,  
26 Sopwith Crescent,  
Canford Magna,  
Wimborne,  
Dorset.

## Bravery award

From the Head of Programme, Eurosport

Sir, May we claim the bravery of Henry Kelly (Sports Letters March 29) European champion 53 hours of handball last year with more-to-come, starting with the world championship in April 11.

Yours sincerely,  
ADRIAN METCALFE,  
Head of Programme,  
Eurosport,  
6 Centaurus Business Park,  
Great Wymondley, Middlesex.







The Times previews the all-important fourth Test match that starts today in Bridgetown, Barbados

# Awestruck by Gooch regime's practice routine

Bridgetown I WAS in the press box at the Kensington Oval, next to one of the many former pro cricketers who have turned journo. We were awaiting the delayed start of Tuesday's one-dayer. The rain was light but persistent. The covers were out. So were the England cricketers.

A pair were taking sleeping catches. There were two or three more couples taking "throw-downs", an exercise in hand and eye co-ordination in which one player throws incessantly at another with a bat. As usual, proceedings were quietly intense.

"Look at them!" said the former pro. "Practising! In the rain! It's an insult to the profession!" This was said half in jest, half in wonderment. This is the work ethic gone mad.

Remember the era of "voluntary nets"? These were David Gower's famous last words during England's last tour of the West Indies, which was, of course, a 5-0 blackwash. The concept of the voluntary net has been consigned



Simon Barnes

to the dustbin of history. So has another cricket tradition: the concept of what pros call "naughty boy nets". This is a method of using practice as a form of punishment. But in today's England camp, all life is grim: most of life is some form of punishment: nets are just another painful, vital duty, one from which there is no escape.

Practices stretch to unprecedented lengths. Eleven 'til almost three, not the coolest part of the day, that. The intensity, the sense of purpose and direction, the aura of certainty: these are the novelties of the Gooch regime.

I was there when it all began: in the Nehru Cup one-day competition in India last October. Practices were notable for Micky Stewart, the team manager, camp-

ing it up as the martinet sergeant major, effing and blinding at the top of his lungs. This has changed. I think everyone is more secure in his role: does not need to overplay the part.

These practices are, if anything, even more intense than they were in Delhi. There is a taut silence that dominates the proceedings. Some teams express their solidarity by shouting and bantering during practice: morale is boosted in jokes and teases.

I have seen Australian sides enliven fielding practice by making it a competition, yelling the score at each other and trading insults. But English minds are filled with business. And even as the thump and clatter of the eternal tests echoes on, the Maimed Captain, Graham Gooch of the Broken Hand, is running round and round and round, lap after lap around the boundary boards at the Oval, face as grim as ever, sweat pouring off him.

If England lose, it will not be from lack of sweat.

And whatever the result in these two remaining Test matches, there is no ducking the fact: the tour has been a triumph. Gooch and Stewart have established a new approach to playing cricket for England: it lacks charm, it lacks insouciant elegance: it demands to be judged only on results. Well, they have got the results, and against the best side in the world. One cannot be meanly-mouthed about that.

There is, I think, a slight awe at their own achievement. A serious victory against the West Indies within their grasp: it needs two draws, or a single victory. A 1-1 finish, which requires a single draw, would hardly be less of an achievement.

The odds are stacking up against them, injury by injury. The damage to Gooch is what worries most people, of course: Gooch is the keystone of the arch: take him out and where is the structural stability?

Gooch is the leadership. This is the side he has created in his own

dedicated, charmless and spectacularly efficient image. He is the sun around which the team revolves. How will his absence affect performance in the field?

His batting was the bedrock of the England side in the last Test: he is the one England player around whom even the West Indies walk a bit stiff-legged. All the same, I have a suspicion that this may not be the out-and-out disaster it looks. His absence will force the other batsmen into positions of greater responsibility. Larkins, Smith and Lamb know that a huge weight has fallen on them: such things can inhibit — or inspire.

Gooch has performed a kind of miracle in making this starless bunch of cricketers, a band with no more than a handful of Tests between most of them, into the first proper England cricket team of the post-Botham era. Not only that, but one capable of pulling off the greatest feat an England cricket team has managed for decades. England last beat the West Indies

in a series in 1969; last drew one in 1973-74.

Perhaps Gooch's greatest individual miracle has been over Devon Malcolm: converted from a wild and reckless sprinter to a sleek engine of destruction. What have they done? The man's self-image has improved out of all recognition. People now talk about him as the fastest bowler in the world. He made Haynes and Greenidge send out for extra protection. And he is not just fast: he is straight.

He looks wonderfully benign, with his schoolboy glasses — he looks as if he should be wearing a degree hood and a mortar board — but he has performed wonders of ferocity. He stands as a symbol of what Gooch and Stewart have achieved: he is a triumph of selection and of man management.

The tension is cranking up ever tighter for this Test match. These are the highest stakes that England have played for in years. As for the West Indies, to sweat and struggle so titanicly against Pakistan was

bad enough: but England? You can see this as a measure of their decline. Well, the side did not seem to be in decline less than two years back, during England's infamous Summer of the Five Captains.

Who were they? This will become one of the great trivia questions in sport. Gatting, Cowdrey, Emburey, Pringle (briefly deputising in the field) and Gooch. Of them all, I thought the worst appointment was Gooch.

I was right in one way — the tour of India was cancelled because of his appointment, because of objections to his South African connections. But I did not rate Gooch as a leader either.

Wrong, wasn't it? Today, he stands on the threshold of the greatest achievement of any England captain for decades. What is more, all this must now be achieved vicariously. Gooch is at last within his grasp: but, broken-handed, he is forced to delegate the task of seizing it. And this is the toughest test of all.

## England weakened but defiant

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent  
Bridgetown, Barbados

TEN weeks ago, as England set off for the Caribbean, I compared their task to climbing a mountain in stilettos. Today, tired, footsore but defiant, they are approaching the most dangerous part of their ascent.

Kensington Oval has been the resting place of many a tour's ambitions. West Indies have won their last eight Tests here. They have only ever lost on the ground once, to Bob Wyatt's England team in 1935. As Test form goes, this is a home banker and England are not in the health to suggest they can break the sequence.

It has been a revelation to witness thorough organization and single-minded motivation inspire a fundamentally moderate group of players to outplay the world champions, as they have done in two successive Tests.

By rights, they ought to be unassailably 2-0 ahead going into the two final games. But they are not, and at the risk of seeming churlish, I now have to question whether they can hold on to their dream.

These are the worryingly persuasive facts: West Indies, snorting with wounded pride, are at full strength for the first time in the series, their only selection difficulty involving which of their fast bowlers to leave out. England, who were immune to injuries for so long, now have so many that they can't think of finalizing a team until staging a fitness parade this morning.

The loss of Graham Gooch is the single most devastating thing which could have happened to this England team. The potential loss of Angus Fraser, their most reliable bowler, is not far behind.

WEST INDIES: from I.V.A. Richards (captain), D.L. Haynes, C.G. Greenidge, R.B. Richardson, C.A. Best, A.L. Logie, C.L. Hooper, P.J. Dujon, M.D. Marshall, C.E.L. Ambrose, I.R. Bishop, C.A. Walsh, C.E.L. Ambrose.

ENGLAND: from A.J. Lamb (captain), D.M. Smith, W. Larkins, A.J. Stewart, R.A. Smith, N. Hussain, P.A.J. DeFreitas, G.C. Lewis, A.R.C. Fraser, D.E. Malcolm, E.E. Hemmings.

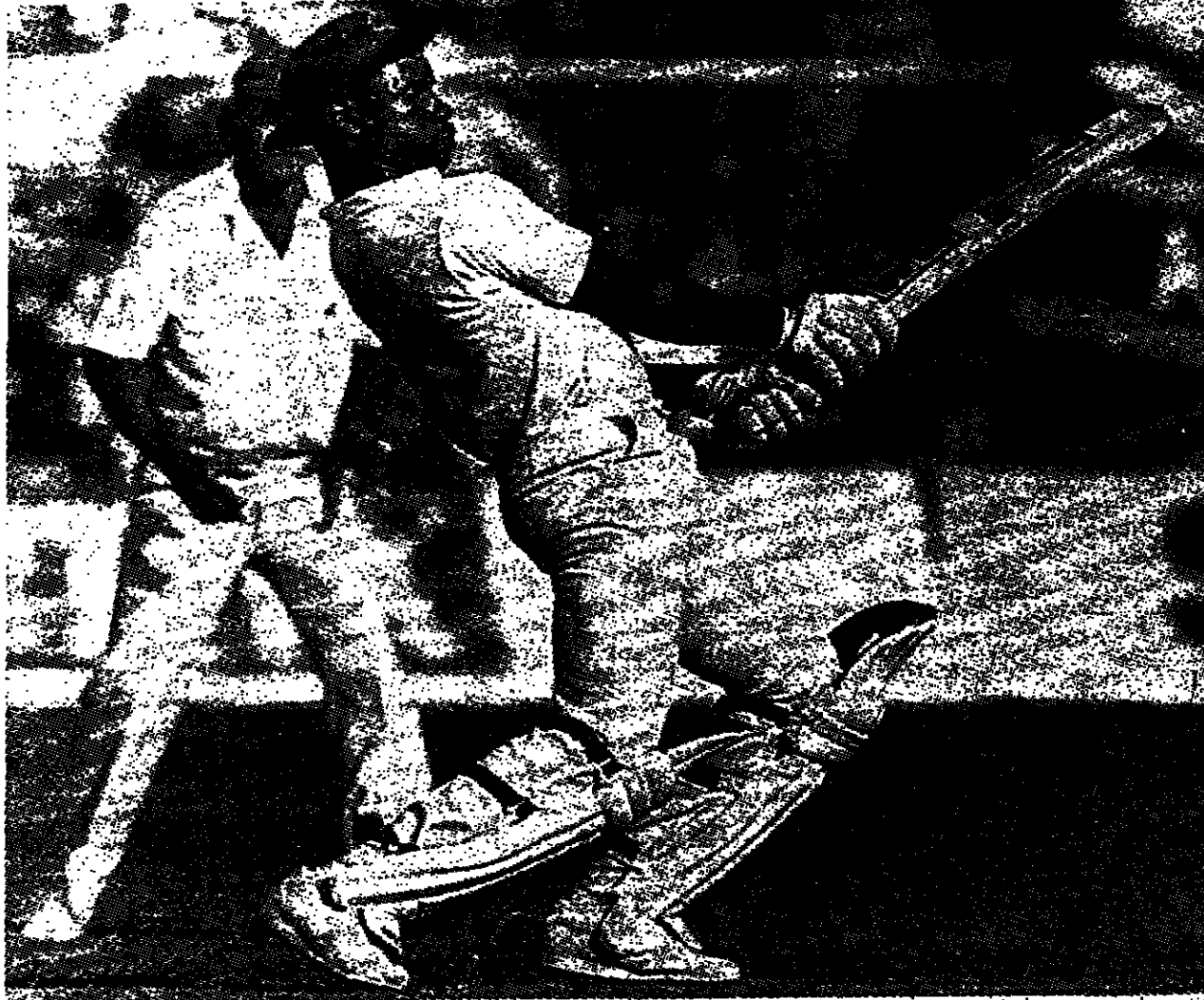
Umpires: D. Archer and L. Barker.

Even the cheerful disposition of Allan Lamb has been subdued by the burden suddenly thrust upon him. Since his elevation to the captaincy he has adopted the careworn expression of one who knows that there is potential for everything to go horribly wrong and fears that the blame will be laid at his door.

Lamb has conspicuously been shielded from the enormous press contingent, whether by management design or his own preference. Micky Stewart, the team manager, has given daily updates on the casualty situation but with a terseness indicative of his anxious mood.

The Bridgetown pitch has for some years been the fastest in the Caribbean. This week, both for the Barbados match and the one-day international, it has also been even of pace and bounce, the best batting surface England have encountered on tour. Stewart, however, is plainly unconvinced that the Test pitch will be as consistent.

After inspecting yesterday morning, he said: "There is plenty of grass on it — at this stage, possibly even more than there was at Trinidad." He would not be drawn on the advisability of putting West Indies into bat first. Lamb wins the toss, but the customary pattern here is for the faster bowlers to enjoy themselves on the first morning, while some moisture remains. An



Pointing the way: Richardson hammers England towards defeat in the one-day international at Bridgetown

insertion may not be quite so vital to the outcome as it threatened to be at Port of Spain, but I fancy Viv Richards will be keen to find out. Richards rejoined his players on Tuesday, his hamstring condition evidently under control and his confidence high that the series will be all square by next Tuesday.

The teaser for the West Indian selectors concerns the final fast-bowling position and there remains the unthinkable prospect that Malcolm Marshall could be left out on his home ground. He has not looked his old, menacing self at any stage on this tour and, even before breaking a finger, his fitness left plenty to be desired.

England will pick the fittest and the bravest. David Smith, hideously unlucky to join the injury list on his first match day, seems unlikely to be fit enough. His thumb still hurt him too much to bat in the nets yesterday and Stewart admitted: "If the Test started today, he could not play."

The manager's son, Alec, is the deputy opener and will play through the discomfort of a cracked little finger. Nasser Hussain will play his second Test despite persistent pain in his wrist.

Manager Stewart shrugs at the minefield through which his team are treading. "You are always going to play this game carrying pain," he said.

### SCOREBOARD FROM BARBADOS

West Indies won toss

ENGLAND	6s	4s	Mins	Runs	Balls
D.M. Smith b Mosley	3	0	4	55	53
W. Larkins b Walsh	3	0	4	115	7
R.A. Smith run out	69	7	86	89	
A.J. Lamb not out	58	7	80	38	
N. Hussain not out	15	1	22	14	

Extras (2 b, 5 w, 14, nb 12) 36

Total (3 wickets, 38 overs) 214

BOWLING: Ambrose 1-29-31; DeFreitas 3-0-49-1; Mosley 7-0-43-1; Marshall 9-0-50-0; Hooper 6-0-31-0.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-98, 3-161.

WEST INDIES

ENGLAND	6s	4s	Mins	Runs	Balls
D.L. Haynes c Hussain b Hemmings	48	1	7	70	54
C.G. Greenidge c Russell b Small	80	1	37	19	
R.B. Richardson b Small	80	1	8	122	84
C.A. Best c sub (Stewart) b Capel	51	1	6	75	43
A.L. Logie c Larkins b DeFreitas	12	0	5	7	
A. Hooper c Larkins b Small	11	0	2	12	9
P.J. Dujon not out	11	0	2	12	9
E.E. Hemmings not out	1	0	2	1	

Extras (8 b, nb, w, 1) 9

Total (8 wickets, 37 overs) 217

BOWLING: C.E.L. Ambrose and C.A. Walsh did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-78, 3-190, 4-188, 5-188, 6-212.

Hammonds 5-0-51-1.

Umpires: D. Archer and L. Barker.

West Indies won series 3-0. First two internationals rained off. Third international (Jamaica): West Indies won by three wickets. Fourth international (Guyana): West Indies won by six wickets.

## England's bowlers hold the secret of further success

David Gower

WELL, one can hardly say that my comeback against Barbados in a borrowed England shirt was an outstanding success. A day in the field to start with was a fair test to see if the few legs I had in Guyana, and Trinidad had actually had any effect and, after a day chasing leather from Greenidge and Best, I was almost impressed with myself.

I was not quite so happy the following morning and, by the time I had flicked a ball from the worst of the Barbados seamers on the day into square leg's hands, I was starting to get a bit browned off. Still, it is one way to start the new season.

In any case, my minor problems are exactly that in comparison to the glitches that have hit the England camp. Extra Mosley appears intent on continuing in the role of hit-man, and took the chance in Tuesday's international to hit newcomer David Smith both on the helmet and the thumb. Gooch's replacement had had time to take guard.

But Smith is a born fighter and will be drawing on all his competitive talents for today's Test match, at the top of a batting order which has lost its most experienced player. Gooch has been away throughout the tour of how green much of this side is, in terms of experience,

and these last two Tests of the series will be the ultimate examination of the spirit of this touring party.

Lamb and Larkins, the two senior players left, will have to inspire the talented youngsters to reach new heights of performance against a West Indies attack which will have been encouraged by the final throes of the Trinidad Test, and probably by some extra pace and bounce in the Kensington wicket.

The key lies with England's bowlers. If Angus Fraser does not report fit, another, albeit could appear in their armoury. It is the pressure that the bowlers have maintained on the West Indies between the two Tests, the edge in the series, and the West Indies between will be just as much aware of that as they start this match.

Whether or not they can come to terms with that pressure will decide which of the West Indies bowlers will have enough runs to play with to ensure the victory they desperately crave, and which England must desperately deny them.

## Extra pace threat in Barbados Test

By Simon Wilde

THE fate of most recent touring teams at Bridgetown, Barbados, where the fourth Test starts today, can be likened to being welcomed into a friend's exquisitely kept garden and being politely requested to leave. The most of England's fiercest trials of the tour, and perhaps their likeliest scene of defeat.

England can expect to meet the quickest pitch of the series in Bridgetown: pitches with pace and bounce are what have won West Indies the last eight Tests they have played there since 1977-78, the majority by large margins. The truth about Bridgetown is that West Indies expect to win and their opponents expect to lose. Not was Malcolm Marshall oversteering the case when he said that all touring teams are frightened of playing in Barbados.

England have won only one Test in Bridgetown, on a rain-affected pitch in 1954-55, when they were left with 73 to win and got home by four wickets. The ground has generally

been favourable enough to best-men, though, for England to avoid defeat, the five matches between 1953-54 and 1980-81 produced 15 individual centuries, including scores for Ian Botham, the 302 by Bob Woolmer, and 226 scored out by Sobers and 197 by Worrell, who batted together through two entire days. The highest innings for England was 152, by Sandham in 1928-29, in the first Test ever played in the West Indies.

England lost in 1980-81 partly because of the death during the match of Barrington, their assistant manager. Four years ago they threw away the match after getting themselves into a good position to secure it. From then the chairman of selectors who attended the match, openly criticized the lack of resolve of Gower's team.

The present party is unlikely to be found similarly wanting. The pitch remains the 120 to the Caribbean. England are the side playing as though they do not expect to lose. And England are the side playing in a team.

### TEST MATCH AVERAGES

West Indies batting and fielding

W	M	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Catches
A.L. Logie	1	2	0	118	59	59.00	1	1
I.V.A. Richards	1	2	0	58	37	29.00	0	1
C.G. Greenidge	2	0	0	115	8	57.50	0	0
D.L. Haynes	2	0	0	56	45	28.00	0	0
C.A. Best	2	0	0	76	64	19.50	0	1
R.B. Richardson	2	0	0	76	64	19.50	0	1
C.L. Hooper	2	0	0	76	64	19.50	0	1
E.A. Mosley	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	1
P.A.J. DeFreitas	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	1
C.E.L. Ambrose	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	1
I.R. Bishop	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	1
M.D. Marshall	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	1
C.A. Walsh	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	1
B.P. Patterson	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	1

Also bowled: M.D. Marshall 18-3-46-1; P.A.J. DeFreitas 2-0-35-1; C.A. Best 4-0-19-4; I.V.A. Richards 1-0-22-0; C.L. Hooper 24-5-54-0.

Bowling

O	M	R	W	Ave	BB	SI
C.A. Walsh	82.2	9	152	9	16.88	5-68
C.E.L. Ambrose	42.8	8	79	4	9.75	3-29
I.R. Bishop	75.3	12	189	8	23.62	2-89
E.A. Mosley	40	7	103	8	34.33	2-70

Also bowled: M.D. Marshall 18-3-46-1; P.A.J. DeFreitas 2-0-35-1; C.A. Best 4-0-19-4; I.V.A. Richards 1-0-22-0; C.L. Hooper 24-5-54-0.

### England batting and fielding

W	M	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Catches
A.J. Lamb	2	3	0	189	122	53.00	1	5
W. Larkins	2	3	0	128	34	42.66	0	4
G.A. Scobie	2	4	1	128	84	21.00	0	2
D.J. Capel	2	3	1	82	40	20.50	0	1
R.C. Russell	2	3	1	45	26	23.00	0	6
R.A. Smith	2	3	0	53	31	17.68	0	1
A.J. Stewart	1	3	1	53	31	17.68	0	1
N. Hussain	1	3	1	13	13	13.00	0	1
A.R.C. Fraser	2	2	1	13	13	13.00	0	1
C.G. Smith	2	2	1	13	13	13.00	0	1
D.E. Malcolm	2	2	1	13	13	13.00	0	1
D.J. Capel	2	2	1	13	13	13.00	0	1

Also bowled: R.J. Bailey 0, 0.

Bowling

O	M	R	W	Ave	BB	SI
A.R.C. Fraser	71.1	19	161	11	14.63	5-26
D.E. Malcolm	83.5	13	263	15	17.53	6-77
C.G. Smith	53	8	54	7	24.75	4-55
D.J. Capel	55	10	184	3	54.66	2-31

Compiled by Richard Lookwood Source: TCCB/BB

### GOLF

#### Snow hits top women

SURVIVAL turned into something of a lottery when a blanket of overnight snow delayed the start of the second round in the northern women's open four-stages tournament at Ringway for five hours yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

In an attempt to make good the loss of time, officials decided that the two scheduled rounds would each be played over nine holes.

Sara Robinson, the England international, and Kim Ferguson, from Northumberland, the holders, were the first notable heads to roll when they were

### HOCKEY

#### Krishman goal takes London into the final

By Sydney Friskin

LONDON emerged from a hard-fought match with a 1-0 victory over Wales at Peffmill Sports Ground, Edinburgh, yesterday, to reach the final of the British Universities Sports Federation tournament, where they will meet UAU, who beat Scotland 2-1 after extra time.

Paul Krishman scored the only goal of the game from a short corner in the 33rd minute, after Eusterson had misused at the first attempt. Wales fought furiously to reduce the balance, but could not break down the London defence.

They missed a good chance of equalizing midway through the second half when Head played a short wide of the target.

London had won the first pool after a 1-1 draw with UAU in the morning. Eusterson scored for London, from a short corner, and Lee replying for UAU.

Oxford were third in the pool after a 2-1 win over UAU II. Grimes, from a short corner, and Embury scored for Oxford, while Litchfield, from a short corner, found the net for UAU.

The exciting three-way struggle for supremacy in the second pool ended with Northern Ireland dropping out of the race after losing 3-2 to Wales, who snatched victory with a late goal by Simon Wilson.

He had scored earlier to bring

### SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm) Conditions Runs to resort Weather + temp Last snow

AUSTRIA

Obertauern 75 140 good powder good fine 4 4/4

Wonderful skiing everywhere on new snow. Off piste particularly good.

St Anton 80 250 good powder good fine 7 4/4

Some good powder skiing on upper slopes. Rather heavy lower down.

FRANCE

La Plagne 150 330 good powder good fine 3 3/4

Good on and off piste conditions today.

Les Arcs 45 165 fair powder fair fine 10 3/4







## SPORT

## A football 'murder' that never took place

From Ken Shillman in Rome and John Goodbody in London

AN ITALIAN television station has had to apologize for a programme about English football hooliganism which contained a fictitious account of a Chelsea supporter being killed by a Manchester City gang in 1988.

The episode, screened last month on Canale 5, has created a furore in Italy, only two months before the first match in the World Cup finals, for there are widespread fears that the tournament will be marred by conflicts between rival supporters.

There is concern that the film will further inflame a situation about which there is already unease, because of the violent reputation of a small minority of

England supporters and the memories of the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster, when 39 Juventus supporters died before the European Cup final against Liverpool.

On March 6, Canale 5, the station owned by Silvio Berlusconi, who is also the president of AC Milan, screened a programme devoted to the subject of English hooliganism. It began by showing a fictionalized episode of stadium violence in England.

Then, as an overture to the debate, Gigi Moncalvo, the Canale 5 reporter, projected an episode which he narrated from off the screen, describing the killing of a Chelsea supporter by a group of City supporters during a match in London. Immediately after the assault scene, the programme showed a film of the police

in London arresting the murderer on the day after the crime.

Franco Arturi, an editor at *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, the Milan daily sports newspaper, said: "It was shocking footage - brutal, ugly, violent. It was the kind of film which takes about 10 minutes to get picked up by nearly every major television news broadcast in Europe. It was one of those episodes which you can never forget."

Yet Arturi could not remember the incident and the transmission supplied neither the date of the game nor the names of the two main figures in the sequence, who Moncalvo described simply as the assassin and the victim.

Arturi made a thorough search of the newspaper's files but was unable to

locate an incident similar to the one described during the Canale 5 transmission.

So he phoned Moncalvo for clarification. Arturi described the television reporter as "reticent", but Moncalvo said that the footage was filmed by police in London and the date of May 8, 1988 was superimposed.

However, *La Gazzetta's* London correspondent quickly discovered that the match between the two clubs had not been played on that date and it was found that the footage had been shot by the Manchester police during a friendly game between Manchester City and United.

When the film was privately shown, the London correspondent was able to

see the whole episode, which showed the assault but also the supposedly murdered man stand up and walk away after the City supporters had left the scene. There was no murder and the footage of the Metropolitan Police arresting a suspect was related to a totally different incident.

*La Gazzetta*, followed by other Italian newspapers, has written several articles about the incident.

Arturi said that the cutting of the film should not be considered as a deliberate affront to the English. He said: "It is simply a case of carelessness. The fact that it happened to be centred on an English subject is purely incidental."

At Canale 5, Emilio Fede, the news director, has expressed his regret at having involuntarily transmitted a piece

which unjustly accused a group of a serious crime. He described the incident as "a serious professional lapse."

Fede explained that Moncalvo's error was due to the reporter's insufficient knowledge of English, which led to the incorrect translation of the sub-titles, accompanying the film. He also said that Moncalvo claimed that he had not seen the entire film.

However, Fede said that Moncalvo had received a letter reprimanding him for his irresponsible work during the programme and asking him to have a more professional attitude.

Fede explained: "He has been given a yellow card. It is never easy to have to reproach a colleague. However, I am confident that Moncalvo will be more thorough in the future."

## Langer warned of future invite in Augusta rumpus

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Augusta

BERNHARD Langer, the West German golfer, was caught in a controversy yesterday on the eve of the Masters, which created some speculation on his future participation in a tournament which he won in 1985.

Hord W Hardin, the chairman of the Augusta National Golf Club, which stages the Masters, admitted to being displeased by an incident on Sunday when, in his opinion, his group of members was held up on the course by Langer practising.

Hardin pointed out that the Masters was an invitational tournament, while Langer stressed that he felt that if anyone had a right to be upset it should be him as he had been driven into on the course.

"Bernhard Langer might also regard the incident as being distressing," Hardin said. "We did not realize he had come onto the course at the 10th and we did drive into him. The members' tee at the 11th is also lower down, so you cannot see the fairway and, anyway, we did not expect him to be there. We would have thought that he would have cleared the green

by the time we teed-up. I walked over to him and I said we did not appreciate being held up and he said that he did not appreciate being driven into."

"The fact is that Sunday is not an official practice day and he had taken his time in front of members playing their course. He would do well to remember that this is an invitational tournament, although I would not at this stage wish to go further than that. I would add that it is the intention of one official, who would be representing both sides, to speak to him."

Langer insisted that he was innocent: "If anything, I should be the one who is upset. At both the 10th and 11th holes, Mr Hardin hit shots past us. I accept that at the 10th he might not have known we were there, because the group would not have been able to see me from the tee."

Langer also denied that, as a protest, he had failed to attend the dinner on Monday for the international players. "I was not well and that is why I was not there," Langer said. "I have caught a cold from my daughter and it is also restrict-

ing the amount of time I can practise."

Hardin said that he, too, did not see Langer's absence as a protest. However, he said: "I would have appreciated him letting us know that he would not be there before he did, which was only minutes before we sat down."

"We also do see it as discourteous that he does not play in the par-three tournament which we stage on Wednesday. I accept that other players, such as Jack Nicklaus and Seve Ballesteros, also choose not to play. But it is a fact that Bernhard did not play in his second year here which was, of course, before he had become one of our champions."

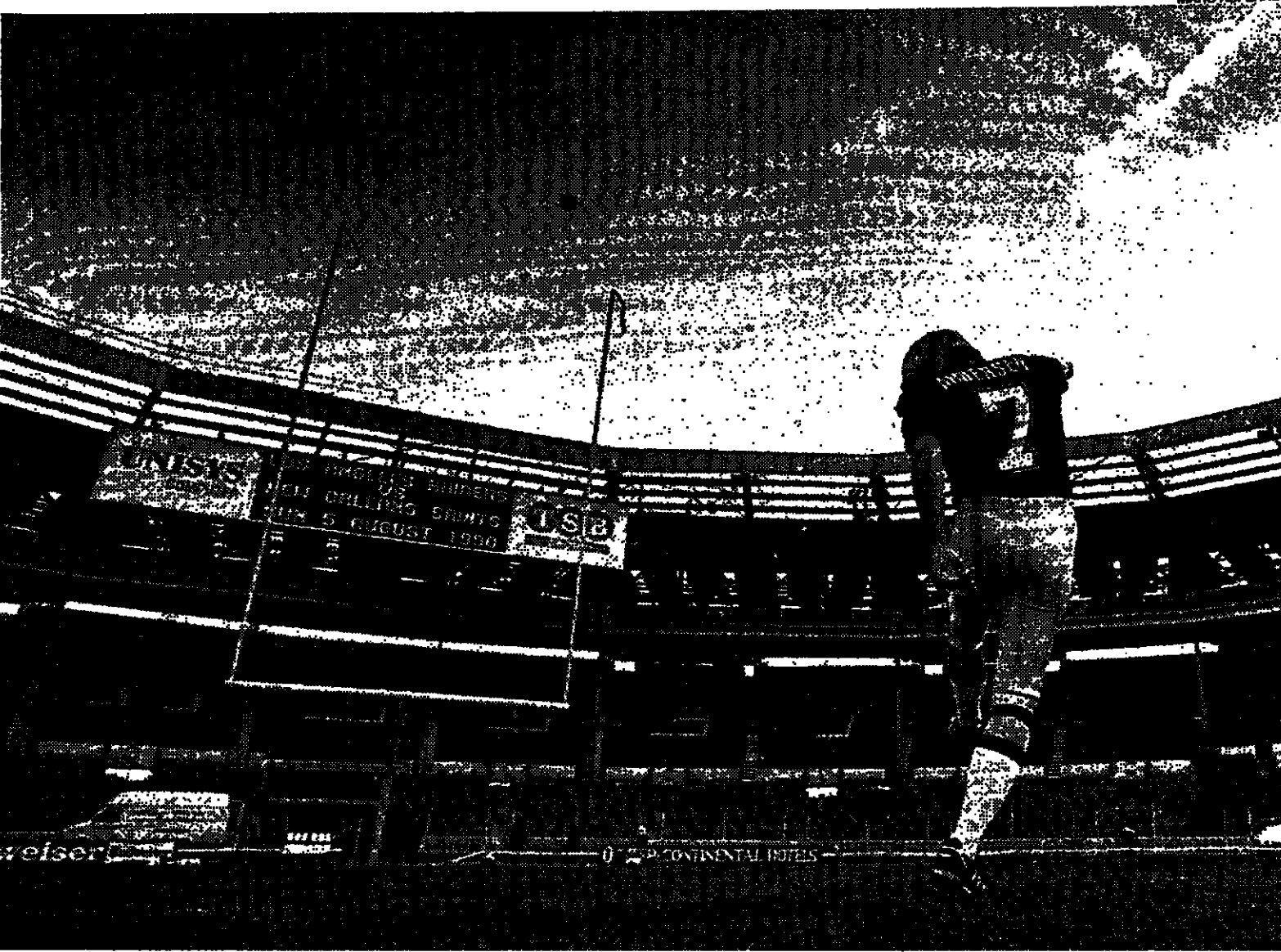
Meanwhile, Greg Norman indicated that he is ready to justify the decision of the bookmakers to instal him as their 8-1 favourite ahead of Severiano Ballesteros, Curtis Strange and Nick Faldo, the defending champion. "I like playing here because it's an institution," Norman said.

"I love the tournament. But I can tell you from the moment the bell goes then the pressure is so intense that by Sunday night you have the biggest headache of your life. It drains and drains and drains you."

"To know that you need to feel what it's like going through Amen Corner on Saturday and Sunday with the heat on and the bad breath of a group of chasing players on the back of your neck. I'm ready for that. I'm ready for the tournament. The course is perfect, in fact the best it has ever been, and I'm ready to win."

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## Gridiron star realizes lifetime ambition



On target: as he has been so often during his career, Morten Andersen, the New Orleans Saints kicker, practising at Wembley yesterday



Andersen: pleased to be here

WHEN the New Orleans Saints and the Los Angeles Raiders take the field at Wembley for the fifth American Bowl, on August 5, Morten Andersen will realize a lifelong ambition. Andersen, the kicker for the Saints, is Danish and is well versed in the Association Football lore of the ground (Richard Wetherill writes).

He took up American football when visiting the United States as an exchange student in 1977, and found that he had a talent for kicking - so much so that he has become the second most accurate kicker the National Football League has seen, succeeding with 77 per cent of his field

goal attempts. He was recently voted the Kicker of the Decade and has made four Pro Bowl appearances.

It is a long way from his days in his native Denmark, when he played soccer, in all positions, but usually centre forward. "I am really excited to be here. As a young football player, at aged five, I watched Bobby Charlton and Gordon Banks play at Wembley and it will be a great thrill to play in the same stadium," he said.

Despite his enthusiasm, he no longer plays the round-ball game, but, kicking for the first time since December, he was pleased with the

pitch. "This field is in unbelievable shape. These conditions are the best I have seen."

The game at Wembley will be one in a series of four organized by the NFL in countries outside the United States and provides further proof of their commitment to export the game. On the same day, there is a game between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks in Tokyo. Four days later, the New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers meet in Montreal, and on August 11, the Kansas City Chiefs face the Los Angeles Rams in the Olympic Stadium, Berlin.

## PREVIOUS MASTERS WINNERS

The full list of previous Masters champions is:

1934: Horton Smith; 1935: Gene Sarazen; 1936: Horton Smith; 1937: Byron Nelson; 1938: Henry Picard; 1939: Ralph Guldahl; 1940: Jimmy Demaret; 1941: Craig Wood; 1942: Byron Nelson; 1943-45: no tournament; 1946: Herman Keiser; 1947: Jimmy Demaret; 1948: Claude Harmon; 1949: Sam Snead; 1950: Jimmy Demaret; 1951: Ben Hogan; 1952: Sam Snead; 1953: Ben Hogan; 1954: Sam Snead; 1955: Gary Middlecott; 1956: Jack Burke Jr; 1957: Doug Ford; 1958: Arnold Palmer; 1959: Art Wall Jr; 1960: Arnold Palmer.

1961: Gary Player; 1962: Arnold Palmer; 1963: Jack Nicklaus; 1964: Arnold Palmer; 1965: Jack Nicklaus; 1966: Jack Nicklaus; 1967: Gay Brewer Jr; 1968: Bob Goalby; 1969: George Archer; 1970: Billy Casper; 1971: Charles Coody; 1972: Jack Nicklaus; 1973: Tommy Aaron; 1974: Gary Player; 1975: Jack Nicklaus; 1976: Raymond Floyd; 1977: Tom Watson; 1978: Gary Player; 1979: Fuzzy Zoeller; 1980: Severiano Ballesteros; 1981: Tom Watson; 1982: Craig Stadler; 1983: Severiano Ballesteros; 1984: Ben Crenshaw; 1985: Bernhard Langer; 1986: Jack Nicklaus; 1987: Larry Mize; 1988: Sandy Lyle; 1989: Nick Faldo.

## Lamb likely to take field without injured Fraser

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados

ENGLAND'S chances of clinging on to a precarious lead in the Cable & Wireless series will be heavily influenced this morning by a pre-match fitness test for Angus Fraser.

Fraser's importance to the England strategy cannot be overstated, but his prospects of playing in this fourth Test under Allan Lamb can be no better than even money after straining the intercostal muscle in his left side.

The injury first made itself felt last Friday, worsened on Monday and seemed, until yesterday, to give Fraser no chance of playing in this match. But a workout in the Kensington Oval nets, beginning gently and working up towards full pace, has restored

hope that the Middlesex seam bowler may yet take his place in the team.

Micky Stewart, the manager, reported: "Fraser came through quite well. He is still aware of some discomfort but it is nothing like the pain of two or three days ago, when he last bowled. If there is any reaction overnight, he cannot be considered for a five-day game, but if he feels all right and comes through another bowl in the morning he has a reasonable chance of playing."

If Fraser is ruled out, England could include a spin bowler for the first time in this series. The Barbados pitch is brown, covered with dead grass, and although likely to offer some early life, it may eventually turn.

England's policy will be dictated by concern over the form of the stand-by fast bowlers, DeFreitas and Lewis, who between them conceded 98 runs in 13.3 overs during Tuesday's one-day international, while off-spinner Eddie Hemmings was bowling with immaculate control.

Stewart said: "If you take out a consistent bowler like Fraser it will make a big difference to the way we look at selection."

England's other fitness doubt, for a game in which they will have more than 3,000 travelling supporters, is emergency opening batsman David Smith, whose bruised left thumb seems likely to discount him.

## Scots stand by Meadowbank

By a Special Correspondent

SUGGESTIONS that the International Athletics Club's (IAC) grand prix meeting in Edinburgh is under threat in 1991 from a new International Amateur Athletic Federation ruling have been dismissed as "mischievous-making" by Edinburgh officials.

"London is just as much under threat as Edinburgh if Britain is to have only one meeting," Bill Walker, the deputy manager at Meadowbank Sports Centre, said last night. The Miller Lite grand prix meeting has been easily the best event of the year at Meadowbank for the last two seasons.

"Reports that Edinburgh failed to meet the attendance criteria are not correct," Walker said. "Our attendance last year was up on the

previous year with well over 12,000 present."

Walker responding to a report in the weekly *Athletics Today*, which claimed that only the top 15 meetings in Europe, evaluated on the basis of the top six performances in the best 12 events, will be accorded grand prix status by the IAAF in 1991.

According to the report, the IAAF has told meeting directors that they must meet certain criteria, including an attendance of at least 12,000, athletes from at least 15 countries and at least 10 grand prix scoring events, three of which must be women's and three field events.

According to the *Athletics Today*, London was ranked only 19th in 1988 but moved up to ninth last year to finish 13th overall, while Edinburgh

was 22nd in 1988 but improved to 14th last year and 17th overall.

"We had athletes from no fewer than 28 countries last year and there is no doubt that Edinburgh is one of the most popular venues on the circuit as the athletes know they will be well looked after," Dave Bedford, the meeting promoter, said.

"We've had near full houses on both occasions despite diabolical luck with the weather and it's preposterous to suggest the meeting is under threat."

Edinburgh officials are also angry and suspicious over the timing of the story which has emerged just when the IAC is at a delicate stage in negotiations with a new sponsor to replace Miller Lite.

## Sillett is to retire in three years

JOHN Sillett, the Coventry City manager, wants to quit football in three years' time because of the growing pressures of management.

The 53-year-old former Chelsea and Coventry player, who has one year of his contract left, has been offered an improved three-year deal which will run from June. He is expected to sign it in May.

Sillett, who took over as Coventry manager four years ago and has seen the club win the FA Cup and reach the semi-finals of the Littlewoods and Simod Cups during that time, said: "This will be the last contract I will ever sign. I have made a promise to my family that it will be for only three years."

"Football has been my life, but there is a lot of stress and there comes a time when you have to call it a day. But before I go I would love to win the League championship with Coventry."

Dublin's Chamber of Commerce is to hold a special seminar, with the Irish team manager, Jack Charlton, as a guest, to examine ways of combatting absenteeism among workers when the World Cup finals start in Italy in June. Tens of thousands of employees are expected to stay off work to watch the televised matches.

Vincent O'Doherty, the Chamber president, said: "The obvious thing to be afraid of is absenteeism, with businesses closing. We are planning - hours and holidays can be moved, special arrangements can be made."

"We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to watch the ties, and not have the national economy grind to a halt."

## Wolverhampton give Mutch fine

By Chris Moore

ANDY Mutch, the Wolverhampton Wanderers forward, sent off at Bournemouth on Tuesday, was yesterday fined a week's wages as the club's deteriorating disciplinary record further threatened the prospects of qualifying for the second division promotion play-offs.

Graham Turner, the Wolverhampton manager, confirmed the fine after Mutch was handed a three-match suspension by the Football Association for his dismissal after an elbowing incident in the 1-1 draw at Dean Court.

Mutch will miss home games with Sunderland and Oxford United and the trip to either Oldham Athletic or West Ham United, depending on when the re-arranged fixture at Boundary Park is played.

Turner was already resigned to being without Paul Cook and Mark Venus for next Tuesday's game with Leicester City at Molineux for collecting too many penalty points. Shane Westley must sit out the following home game, against Newcastle United, on a one-match ban.

"Mutch is as upset as anyone about his sending off, but this is the last thing we need at this stage of the season," Turner said.

"You can sometimes sympathize with bookings for mistimed tackles, but not something like this."

Aston Villa are to pursue their interest in Lars Jacobsen, the Danish forward, who spent a week on trial at Villa Park last month. Jacobsen, aged 28, scored 40 goals for Odense last season.

"We liked what we saw and are following the matter up," John Ward, the assistant-manager, said. Ward would not confirm reports that the manager, Graham Taylor, flew to Sweden earlier in the week to watch Stefan Schwartz, the Malmö full back.

"Graham has been away on club business, but that's all we're saying about it," he said. Watford supporters will be asked this weekend if they want an all-seater stadium at Vicarage Road. Every supporter attending Saturday's home game with Ipswich Town will receive a questionnaire about ground development at Watford.

"The supporters themselves should have a chance to state their opinion on how they watch their football," the Watford chief executive, Eddie Funnley, said.

The West Bromwich Albion forward, Jason Withe, the son of the former Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest forward, Peter Withe, has been given a free transfer. Withe is having a trial with the third division club, Huddersfield Town, where his father is the assistant-manager.

The Reading forward, Trevor Senior, who has been sidelined with a freak throat injury, played for the whole of a reserve game against Queen's Park Rangers on Tuesday. Senior, who sustained the injury on February 24 when he was elbowing in the throat at Bristol City, has undergone three operations because the blow smashed one cartilage behind the windpipe and badly damaged the other.

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